

*Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, 116 (1986). fiche 3:A2-G14

THE CHAPEL AND ENCLOSURE ON THE BROUGH OF DEERNESS,  
ORKNEY: SURVEY AND EXCAVATIONS, 1975-1977

C D MORRIS

DEERNESS	ILLUSTRATIONS
Illus 46 Excavated areas	3:F14
Illus 47 Brough of Deerness from NW and SW	4:F7
Illus 48 Plan by Sir H Dryden	4:F8
Illus 49 Elevation of Chapel by Sir H Dryden	4:F9
Illus 50 Survey of Brough by Sir H Dryden	4:F10
Illus 51 Survey of Brough by RCAMS	4:F11
Illus 52a S and E walls of Chapel, June 1974 (SDD)	4:F12
b E and N walls of Chapel, June 1974 (SDD)	4:F12
Illus 53 Interior W end of Chapel, June 1974 (SDD)	4:F13
Illus 54a Interior E end of Chapel, June 1974 (SDD)	4:F14
b Altar and E end of Chapel, June 1974 (SDD)	4:F14
Illus 55a Timber altar before excavation, from west	4:G1
b Timber altar after excavation, from east	4:G1
Illus 56a East timber wall and altar, from south	4:G2
b Postholes and features at west end, partially below stone Chapel wall	4:G2
Illus 57a Slab covering of adult grave to S of Chapel	4:G3
b South bench from north	4:G3
Illus 58 Vertical photomontage of Chapel (J Dickson)	4:G4
Illus 59 Map of sites on Deerness peninsula	2:B13
Illus 60 Deerness peninsula: sites 10-12	2:B14
Illus 61 Deerness peninsula: sites 14-18	2:C1
Illus 62 Deerness peninsula: sites 22-27	2:C2
Illus 63 Dryden's plan and perspective drawings & 64 of the Brough of Deerness	2:C12
Illus 65 Dryden's Plan of the Chapel and Enclosure	2:C13
Illus 66 Dryden's Elevations of the Chapel	2:C14
Illus 67 Royal Commission Survey-Plan of 1930	2:E12
Illus 68 Buildings numbered by Lamb	2:F12
Illus 69 Chapel Area: Episode 1a	3:A10

Illus 70	Chapel Area: Episode 1b	3:A11
Illus 71	Chapel Area: Episode 2	3:A14
Illus 72	Chapel Area: Episode 3	3:B3
Illus 73	Chapel Area: Episode 4	3:B9
Illus 74	Chapel Area: Episode 5	3:B12
Illus 75	Chapel Area: Episode 6	3:B14
Illus 76	Chapel Area: Episode 7	3:C3
Illus 77	Chapel Area: Episode 8	3:C5
Illus 78	Chapel Area: Episode 9	3:C9
Illus 79	Chapel Area: Episode 10	3:C11
Illus 80	Chapel Area: Episode 11	3:C13
Illus 81	Chapel Area: Episodes 12/13	3:D3
Illus 82	Chapel Interior: Stratigraphic Hierarchy	3:D5-6
Illus 83	Enclosure Area: Episode 1	3:D13
Illus 84	Enclosure Area: Episode 2	3:E2
Illus 85	Enclosure Area: Episode 3	3:E5
Illus 86	Enclosure Area: Episode 4	3:E10
Illus 87	Enclosure Area: Episode 5	3:E13
Illus 88	Enclosure Area: Episode 6	3:F2
Illus 89	Enclosure Area: Episode 7	3:F4
Illus 90	Enclosure Area: Episode 8	3:F6
Illus 91	Enclosure Area: Episode 9	3:F8
Illus 92	Enclosure Area: Episode 10	3:F10
Illus 93	Enclosure: Stratigraphic Hierarchy	3:F11-12
Illus 94	Outside the Enclosure: Stratigraphic Hierarchy	3:G9
Illus 95	North-south and east-west sections	3:G13-14

## EXCAVATIONS 1975-7: THE SITE

### THE CHAPEL AREA

#### Episode 1

##### Summary

The earliest episode of activity on the part of the site which later became the interior area of the stone chapel, is marked by a number of post-holes and slots related to a timber structure constructed on the grey-white clay natural (CF and AQ). It is highly probable that two features below the chapel wall in the south-east corner, and external facing stones of the wall, cut by the later south wall of the stone chapel, were associated with the timber construction. This is considered below in the examination of features located in the enclosure (3: D9).

##### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 69 & 70)

Within the stone chapel at the east end, and just in front of the later stone altar, were post-holes and grooves of a small rectangular construction. This was 52 cm wide at the front (west end), and c 75 cm at the rear, and its length was approximately 40 cm. It comprised two post-holes at the front, EI and EJ, which were similar in length and breadth, 11 cm by 9 cm, with the depth varying by only 1 cm, with EI being 23 cm deep, and EJ being 22 cm deep. Both still retained clay lips, which were noted around the front and sides of the post-hole but not at the back. The sides of the construction were indicated by grooves. The two at the north, HM, were about 1 cm apart, and traces of a clay lip were also found around the north side of the northern slot. The south side of the construction was formed by one slot, EZ, 31 cm by 5 cm by 12 cm. Its south face was marked by a small upright stone 18 cm by 3 cm. The east side of the construction was marked by a single post-hole, EG, midway between the two side slots. The size of the construction, its location just west of the later stone altar, together with its similar alignment, with the long side positioned north-south,

suggest that this small wooden construction was probably a timber altar. Both of the holes for the front posts showed evidence of burning on the top. Only post hole EJ produced a find, a fragment of bone.

30 cm east of the suggested wooden altar was a slot in the natural clay, filled with a reddish brown earth, with some charcoal, from a higher level (Episode 1b). This slot, EC, was 2.30 m long, but there were slight indications that it might have been a little longer. This slot, as is clear from the photograph (Illus 56a), probably held a timber screen formed of planked sections, as it is not continuous. It was demarcated at the south by two large post-holes, ED and DZ, the latter being further to the south. There was, however, some slight suggestion that the screen extended beyond ED up to DZ, indicating, perhaps, some slight alteration in the construction of the timberwork. The lower and upper levels of ED are distinguished on the plans by the suffix 'a' or 'b'. At the north, the slot was cut by what was thought to be a stake-hole, EH, although, again, there is the slight suggestion that the slot extended further north. A stake-hole, FM, lay to the north of EH, but both this and the northern extremity of the slot were cut by the north wall of the stone church.

To the east of the slot, and below the raised areas to either side of the later altar were a number of large post-holes, EE, DX, GB, GI, GJ, GK, and GL. In addition, there were stake-hole FN, and a triangular post-hole LY, 8 cm behind the screen. Post-hole DX produced one stone and a burnt bone, while LY produced a stone and four lumps of possible mortar, probably not contemporary with the post-hole, but relating to the construction of the raised areas. Post-hole EE was found to underlie the northern raised area and contained a sandy clay fill mixed with mortar. There was no similarity between the features in terms of comparable length, breadth and depth. Only features DZ, GB and GJ were roughly on line, in the south-east corner of the stone church.

A groove, FO, was found at the inner face of the west wall of the stone church, at the entrance. It extended from the north internal corner of the door to the south internal corner, and almost to a post-hole, EV. Both were cut into the natural clay, and underlay layer BY (Episode 3). They would, therefore, appear to be primary features, although their position at the interior of the entrance of the later stone chapel may suggest that they indicate the position of a door. The groove may indicate the position of rest of a wooden door on the clay surface, but the clarity of the east edge may raise doubts, as it would be less likely to have a clear edge here due to the inner opening of the door. Evidence for a groove in the higher layers, those related to the stone chapel's use, was not found; thus the conclusion would seem reasonable that the groove is primary.

Within the area demarcated by the grooves FO and EC were three holes at the west end, cut into the natural clay. None of them contained any finds. EQ was noted in the north-west corner of the stone church, and comprised a main hole, with a slightly shallower side hollow. EW was a single hole midway between EQ and EX, and 17 cm from the groove FO. The third post-hole, EX, lay close to the south stone bench. The sizes of the three varied from 11 cm by 10 cm by 12 cm (EQ), to 12 cm by 9 cm by 22 cm (EW), to 13 cm by 11 cm by 6 cm (EX).

A post-hole, EPa, was revealed below a later spread (Episode 2) towards the centre of the chapel, with a stone on edge inside. 54 cm from the timber 'altar' was a post-hole, EN, found below CE (Episode 2). The post-hole was located at a level of 99.76 O D. At a level of 99.84 O D, in the fill of CE, was a coin (Recorded Find 87) of the 10th century Anglo-Saxon king, Eadgar. The hole must pre-date the coin's deposition, which must be after 959 (3: A12). A further possible stake-hole revealed below a higher spread layer of Episode 2, was CA, and EK was a stake-hole to the east of EN.

Close to the north wall of the stone chapel, and aligned roughly east-west, although not exactly on the same alignment as the wall, were two grooves, FL, lying below BY (Episode 3). At right angles to this groove was a rectangular feature, EL, which was considered during excavation to be the possible position of a robbed end-stone for a northern bench. Although this is at a distance similar to the end position of the southern bench ( 3: GL-3 ), the groove does not extend to the north wall, nor was its presence noted in BY. In addition, the groove extends further out from the wall than the width of the south bench. It thus, legitimately, appears to be primary. Close to the two grooves were two small 'stake-holes', FJ and FK, and a slot (FL), 13 by 4 by 35 cm.

From the examination in 1977 of the construction of the south-east corner of the later stone chapel, two features cut into natural were distinguished which may well be contemporary with those described above. Their fills, of brown clay, were identical to the brown clay HG above (see Episode 4).

It has to be remembered that the fill of most of the features distinguished from this episode, are not strictly contemporary with the features themselves. Since the features represent timber constructional features of one form or another, the fills relate to periods after these timber elements had either been destroyed or decayed. They do not relate to their use. Where it was clear that there were spreads more extensive than the fills of the features below, they have been distinguished on the accompanying "Episode 1b plan" (Illus 70 ). However, as archaeologically there was no distinction in the matrix of the spreads and fills, they were not distinguished on site by different layer-codes. They have, nevertheless, been clearly distinguished from those of Episodes 2 and 3, the latter of which only provided a general layer (BY) over most of the area ( 3: B1 ).

General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: DK, DY

? Mortar: DY

Bone: DK, ED (see Episode 2), EI, EL, EP (see Episode 2)

Burnt bone: ED (see Episode 2), EL

Charcoal: EV

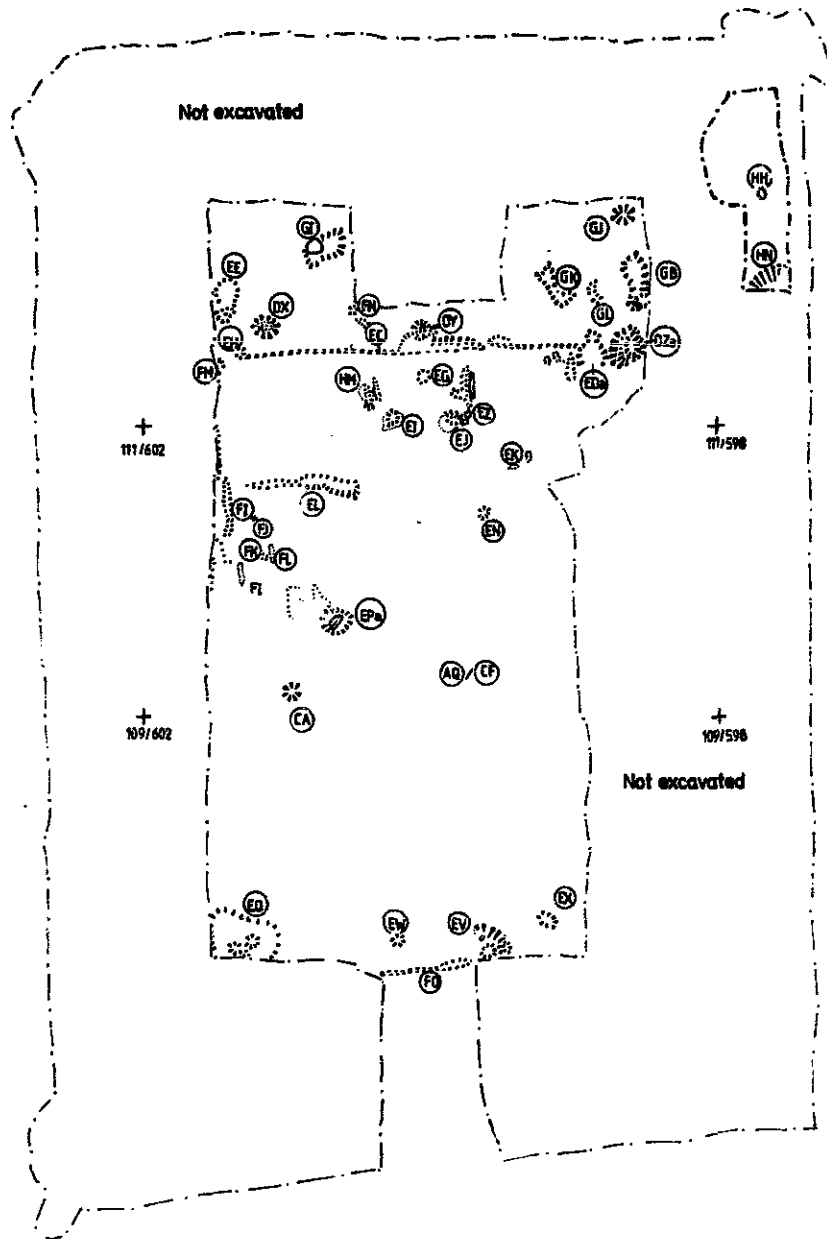
Soil Samples: EE, EP (see Episode 2), EV

Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

None.



# EPISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL

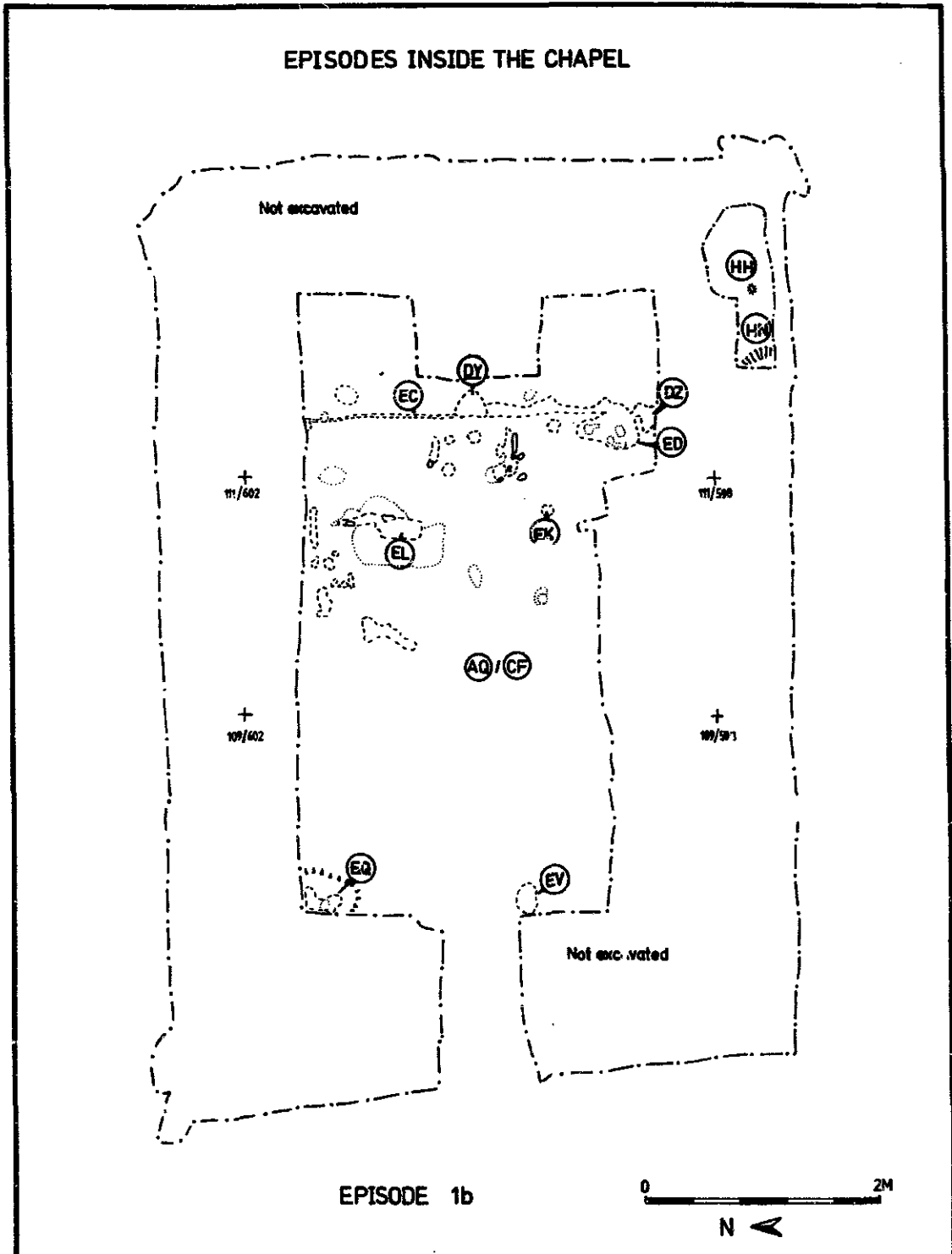


EPISODE 1a



ILLUS 69

EPISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL



ILLUS 70

## Episode 2

### Summary

This episode comprised a number of irregular features, later than the primary timber phase, but earlier than the stone chapel.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 71 )

The most important of these features was CE, cut into the clay to form a gulle 2.72 m long, and a maximum of 40 cm wide. It was filled with a hard, gravelly earth. The cutting of the gulle had removed clay from around the upper section of the post-hole EN, whose remains were still visible at the base of the gulle (Episode 1). In the fill of the gulle was found Recorded Find 87, a silver coin belonging to the reign of Eadgar (959-75), which must post-date post-hole EN at the time of its deposition. The filling material, with the coin contained within it, could obviously not have been dumped before 959, and could have been filled into the gulle at any time during the circulation period of the coin. It could also have been deposited well after the official end of its circulation period. The gulle into which the material was filled, could have been dug before 959, or even after 959. The only other finds from the gulle were 62 bones and a sample of charcoal.

The other features were essentially cut into the clay, but showed some indication of being secondary to the early timber features of Episode 1. In the case of ED there was the suggestion of later alteration or interference with the timber building. If the post-hole DZ formed the southern extent of the 'screen' EC in Episode 1, the shallow feature ED, just north of it, was less obviously a main feature, and there was the slight indication of a groove of EC extending beyond it, up to DZ. ED contained two fragments of animal bone and one burnt bone. The upper levels of ED are distinguished on the plans by the suffix 'b'.

Covering post-hole CA of Episode 1, and visible on the light, natural clay (AQ) was a spread of brown soil, containing four stones and a piece of cinder. Another spread just to the east, EPb, was found to cover post-hole EPa of Episode 1, sunk into clay AQ.

Below BY of Episode 3, and lying on the natural clay CF was a roughly circular area of burnt clay and charcoal, EU. Two small marks were noted in the clay near its east edge, ES and ET. Burning was also found in a roughly north-south aligned spread at the north-west corner of the stone church, ER.

General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: CA

Burnt material: EU

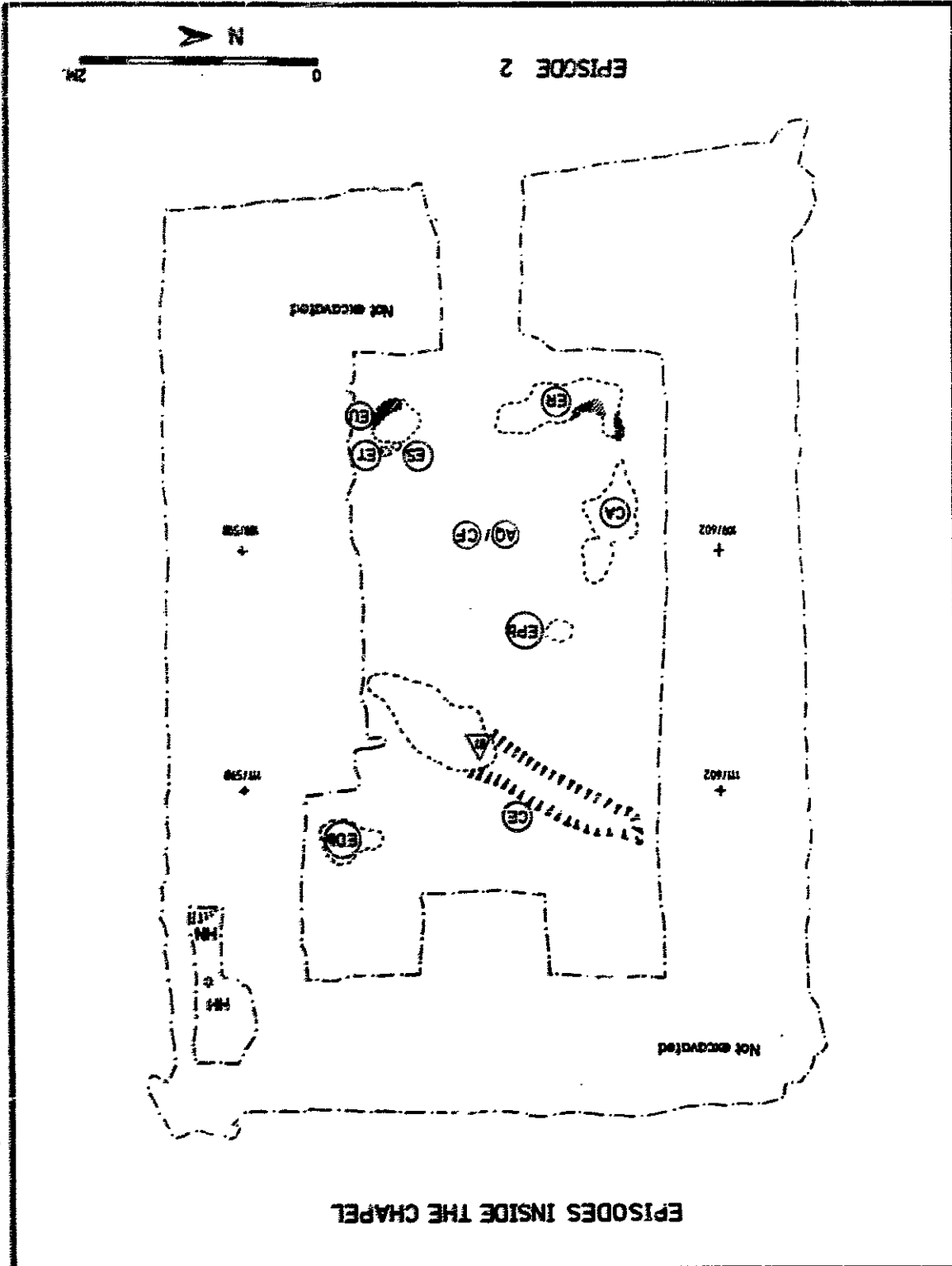
Clinker or charcoal: CA .

Bone: CE, ED (see Episode 1), EP (see Episode 1)

Burnt bone: EP (see Episode 1)

Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

87, Silver coin: CE



### Episode 3

#### Summary

This episode represents a general deposition of material over most of the area, some of it burnt. It represents an intermediate phase between the timber structure, with secondary features, and the later stone church, either as a general occupation, or as deposits laid down while building the stone church.

#### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 72 ).

Apart from a small area in the centre and north-west corner where recent clearance had occurred, the majority of the timber features in the area were covered, in Episode 3, by a layer of hard packed charcoal-flecked sandy clay with large gravel, BY. Found within the layer were two shards of steatite, Recorded Find 95, five lumps of iron, Recorded Find 96, 424 bones, six shells, one lump of mortar, 30 stones including chert (Recorded Finds 16, 148 and 149), and an iron rivet-plate, Recorded Find 137. A sample of burnt material was collected.

Associated with layer BY were two areas of burnt material, CB, in the south-east corner, and CC, in the south central area. Partly overlying this burnt area, but below BV of Episode 5, was a patch of mortar with red flecks, BZ. No finds were made from these layers.

No attempt was made to clear the material of Episode 3 once the chapel had been built: it was simply covered by later internal layers. It could be a general levelling-up layer for the construction of the chapel, upon which little burnt areas associated with the construction developed. Alternatively, in view of the contained material, it could be seen as representing a period of more domestic usage of the site intermediate between the two chapels.

Layer BY overlay the filled-in gully CE of Episode 2, and therefore post-dates the deposition of the coin found in the fill of the feature. The presence of a fragments of steatite in the layer tends to give the episode a Viking or Later Norse character.

General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: BY

Mortar: BY

Burnt material: BY

Bone: BY

Shell: BY

Soil Sample: BY

Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

95, 2 steatite sherds: BY

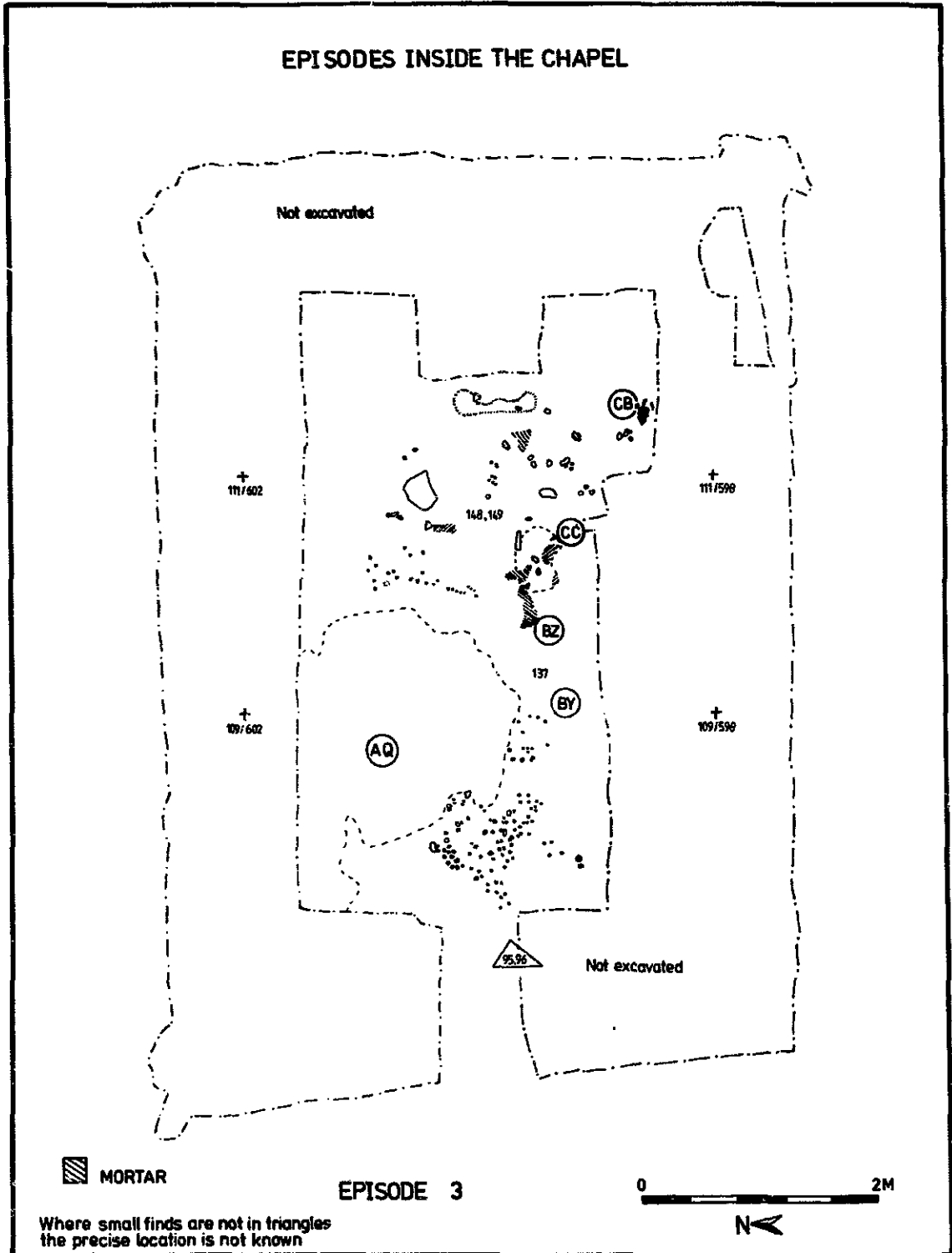
96, 5 iron lumps: BY

137, Iron rivet-plate: BY

148, Flint: BY

149, Chert: BY

# EPIISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL



ILLUS 72



## Episode 4

### Summary

This episode consists of the building of a unicameral stone structure, identified as a chapel by the presence of a stone altar against the internal east wall. 'Steps' were also built to either side of the altar.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 73)

The stone chapel measured over 5 m by 3 m internally, and was aligned approximately east-west (Illus 15). The walls varied in thickness between c 1½ m at the west, and 1.16 m at the east. Examination of the south-east corner suggested that there may have been a bedding layer of brown clay, HG. Onto this material were constructed the walls, comprising facing stones (AD) with a core of loose dark earth mixed with split stones, HF. There was no evidence for the use of mortar in the south-east corner. Some care had been taken in the building of the walls. The lowest courses were of rectangular stone blocks, but above the second course the walling comprised essentially thin slabs. Squarish blocks had also been used to produce a banding effect, dividing up the courses of flat slabs. This was particularly noticeable in the north wall.

The entrance was in the west wall, and was 65 cm wide, although the south outer corner had a slight external splay, resulting in the door being 83 cm wide at the west.

Attached to the internal face of the east wall was a stone altar, 1.05 m by 68 cm, comprising flat slabs (AI), but with the use of some stone blocks, particularly for facing. Some relatively undisturbed mortar, GN, was found within the altar below the loose fill of a later disturbance (GM). It is not certain whether it was used in the primary construction of this altar, or relates to Episode 8 when mortar was used extensively on and around the altar (3: C4).

It is taken here to relate to the later Episode partly because excavation of the altar in 1977 showed a solid external construction akin to the stone walls. No earlier primary feature was found below the part of the stone altar excavated.

At either side of the altar were stone settings (BG), each 98 cm wide, and from 68 cm - 74 cm long. Each setting was one course high, and smeared with mortar, BK, which relates to Episode 8 ( 3: C4 ).

Sir Henry Dryden ( 2: C10 ) noted an aumbry near the east end of the north wall, c 71 cm wide, and not less than c 71 cm high, (2ft 4 in), and recessed c 58 cm, (1ft 11 in). No trace of this was found in 1975. Dryden also noted the remains of a window in the east end, of which only one jamb remained to a height of c 53 cm (1ft 9 in). The opening was c 38 cm, (1ft 3 in) wide splaying internally to c 1.07 m (3 ft 6 in). The outer c 28 cm (11 in) of the jambs were parallel, and in Dryden's view would appear to have contained glass. All evidence for a window had gone by 1975, and no window-glass was found.

The only evidence for the use of stone slabs was one stone tile (Recorded Find 153) from Episode 9 of the Enclosure (3:F7). Alternatively, it would seem that some organic material might have been used instead as the roofing material for the chapel.

The outer facing of the west wall was noted not to be parallel with the inner face, but set at an angle extending outwards towards the north-west corner. Although extensive damage had occurred at the north-west corner due to shell-firing, this was not the original cause of the difference in alignment of the outer facing. It is, however, clear from the jointing of the stonework of the north and west walls, and in the varied banding of different sized stones, that both

walls were contemporary, despite the impression gained initially that the trapezoidal shape might be the result of rebuilding at the west end of the chapel.

From this episode, the major finds, perhaps surprisingly, were numbers of bone fragments found both within the wall fills (AD, HF) and the brown-clay (HG) below. This included a bone point, Recorded Find 142. Also small quantities of stone, shell and charcoal were recovered.

General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: HF

Charcoal: HG

Bone: AD, HF, HG

Shell: HF

Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

142, bone point: HF

Detailed dimensions of chapel

Walls

External Length	North	7.97 m
	South	7.56 m
External Width	West	5.30 m
	East	5.35 m
Internal Length	North	5.18 m
	South	5.23 m
Internal Width	West	2.96 m
	East	3.03 m
Wall Thickness	North	1.20 m
	South	1.20 m
	East	1.16 m
	West (North side)	1.57 m
	West (South side)	1.40 m

Doorway

External Width	0.83 m
Internal Width	0.65 m
Max. Breadth Through Wall	1.40 m
Distance From External North Wall	2.26 m

Altar

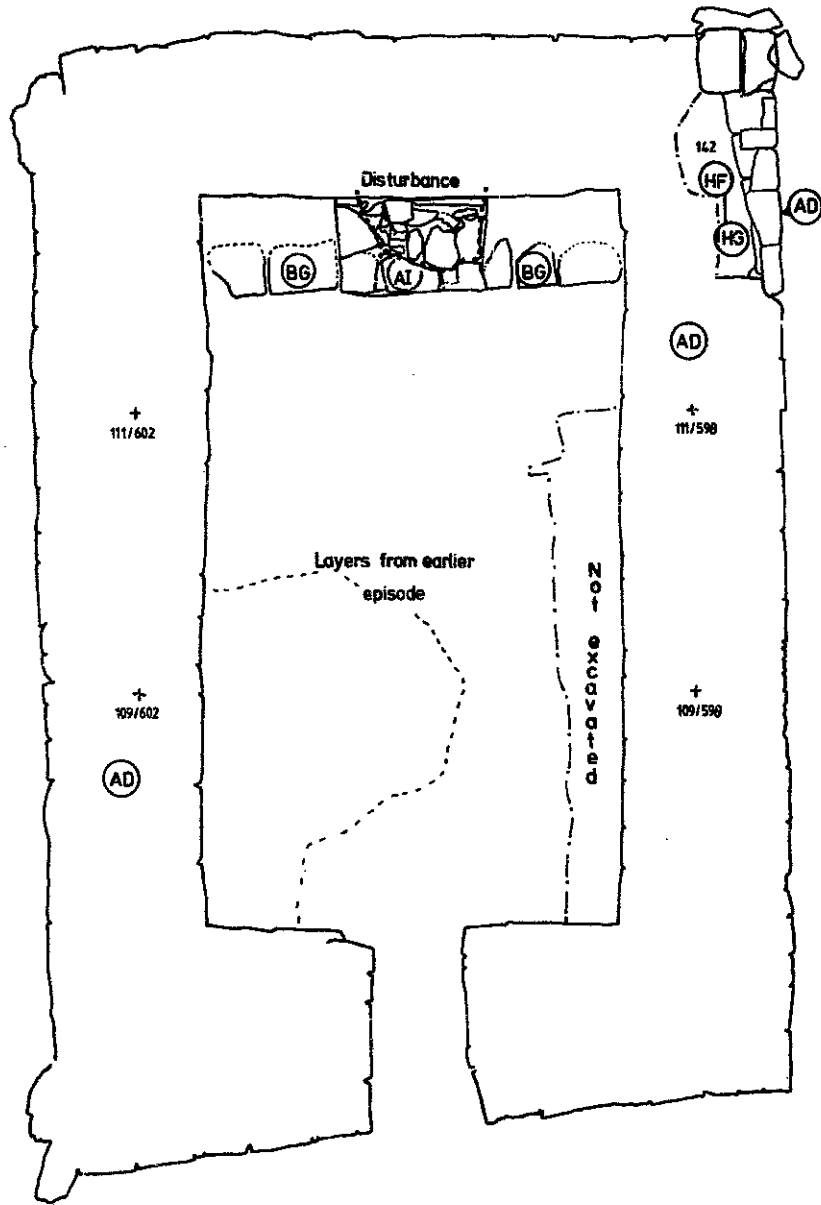
Distance From North Wall	0.98 m	
Distance From South Wall	0.96-1.00 m	
Width	West Face	1.05 m
	Rear	1.10 m
Length	0.67 m	

Detailed dimensions of chapel (Cont'd)

"Steps"/Stone Settings

North	Width	0.98 m
	Length (North side)	0.72 m
	(South side)	0.66 m
South	Width	0.96-1.00 m
	Length	0.66 m

EPISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL



EPISODE 4

Where small finds are not in triangles  
the precise location is not known

0 2M

N

ILLUS 73

## Episode 5

### Summary

This episode marks the laying down of a floor within the chapel over the earlier deposits. Little of the pebble floor remained on top of the sandy bedding layer. An upright stone may mark the division into nave and chancel.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 74 )

The earliest phase of floor level in the stone church consisted of a sandy bedding layer comprising a sandy earth with gravel, found particularly on the south side of the church (BM) with BV, a sandy mixed layer, at the east. Layer BM produced a fragment of iron, Recorded Find 75, and a stone, Recorded Find 76, while BV contained 23 bone fragments, six shells, 14 lumps of mortar, soil samples and stone.

Pebbles BX were laid on the bedding deposit, of which only small clusters remained near the north and south walls. The pebbles also underlay a later bench at the south side of the church. Pebbles were found on either side of an upright stone set close to the south wall of the church, and projecting towards the interior. This stone is set on the natural clay, in part, but at the north end there were slight traces of soil below it, either associated with BV or BY of Episode 3. It may be that the stone, and perhaps another upright close to the south wall, acted as a dividing line between a chancel and nave. If so, this would produce a chancel with a maximum length of 1.90 m, or 1.26 m from the division to the altar. The nave would thus be 3.20 m long.

General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: BM, BV, BX

Mortar: BV

Metal: BM

Bone: BV, BX

Shell: BV

Insect: BV

Soil Samples: BV

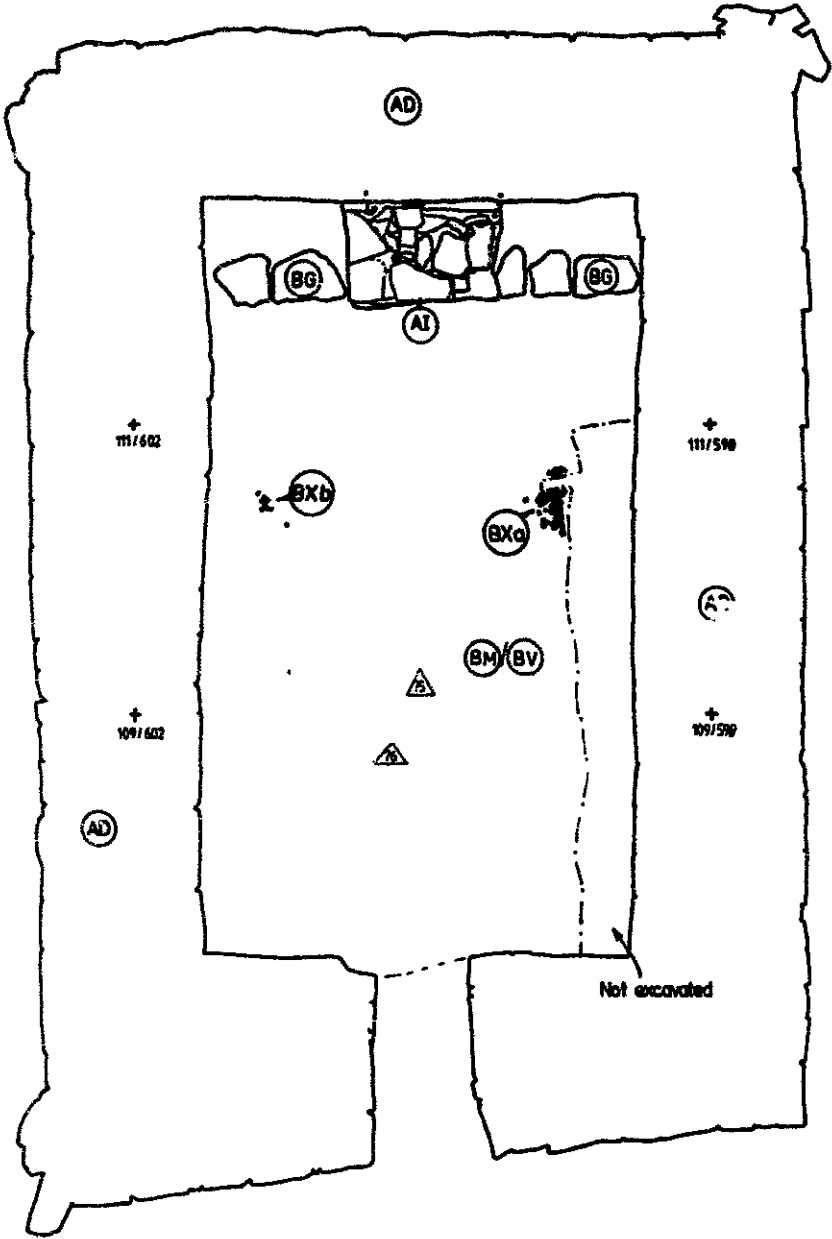
Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

75, Iron lumps: BM

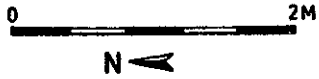
76, Non-artefactual stone: BM



EPISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL



EPISODE 5



ILLUS 74

## Episode 6

### Summary

Remains of a later flagstone floor is the evidence from this episode.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 75 )

Partially overlying the pebbles BV, on the south side, were three flat stone slabs, BW, in a line from the west wall to the upright stone noted in the previous episode.

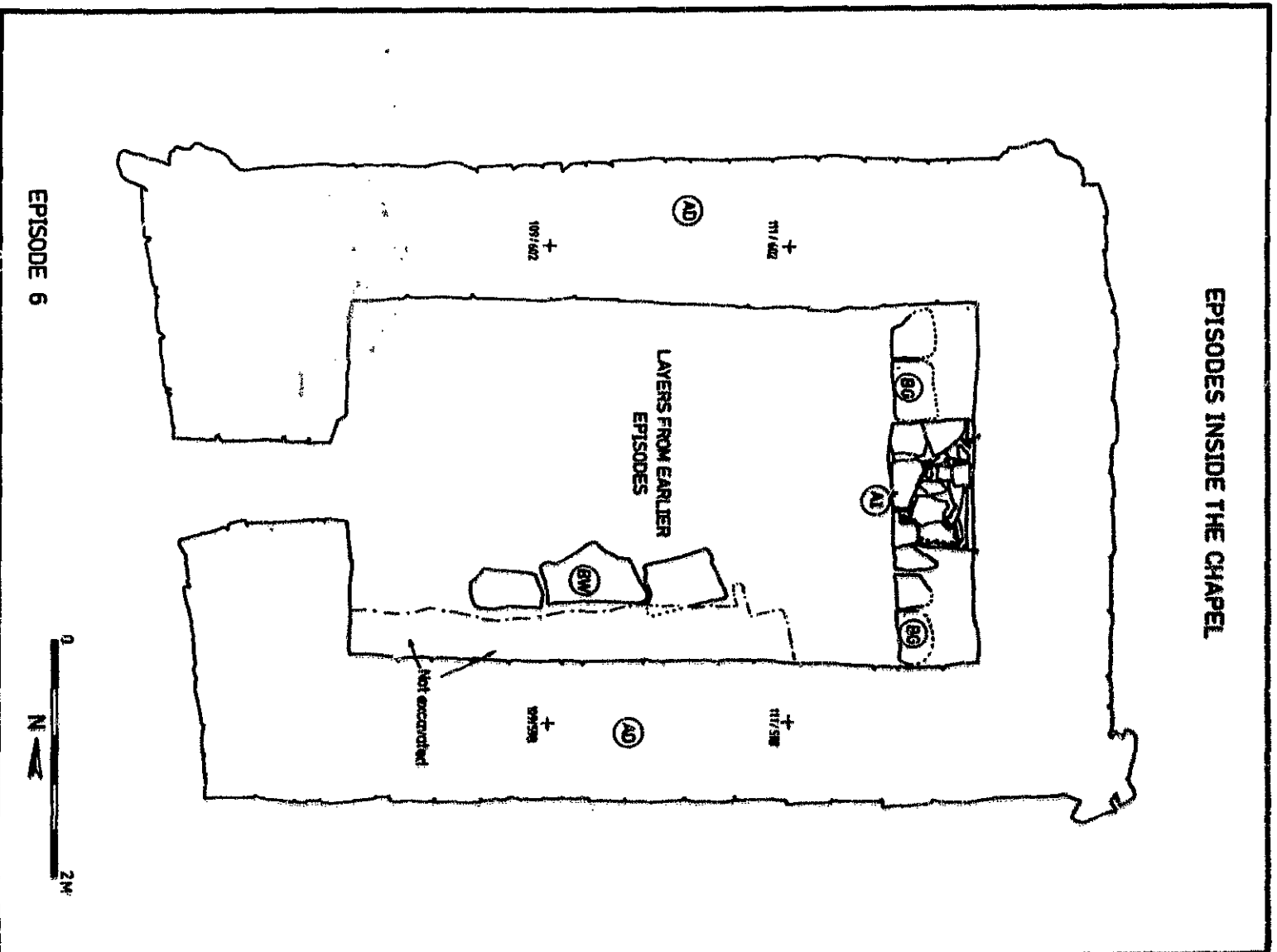
### General Finds from Layers and Features

No finds.

### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

No finds.

EPISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL



EPISODE 6



ILLUS 75

## Episode 7

### Summary

A stone bench was constructed against the south wall, and possibly one against the north wall. A general layer covered the eastern half of the chapel.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 76 )

Possibly at a relatively short period after the flagstones had been laid down, a bench, AJ, was constructed against the south wall. From the south-west corner to the stone upright, it measured 3.40 m by 50 cm, and was built of rough stone blocks, two to three courses high. The flags BW lay immediately in front of the bench.

Flat stones, EY, noted close to the north wall of the church may be the remnants of a north bench. They were not noted in BK (Episode 8), (sitebook sketch 10), but were found to be associated with a spread of pebbles BXb, similar to those at the south side of the church; both being set on the sandy bedding layer BV.

Probably associated with the bench phase was a layer of brown clay flecked with charcoal and mortar, BN. It produced a fragment of pottery, Recorded Find 79, a sherd of steatite, Recorded Find 73, an iron nail, Recorded Find 74, and a piece of pumice, Recorded Find 143. 13 fish bones and 38 shells were also found, as well as a number of pebbles, which conceivably could be remains of the floor of Episode 5.

It would appear that the stone settings on either side of the altar, EG, were still in use.

General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: BN

Mortar: BN

Bone: BN

Shell: BN

Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

72, non-artefactual stone: BN

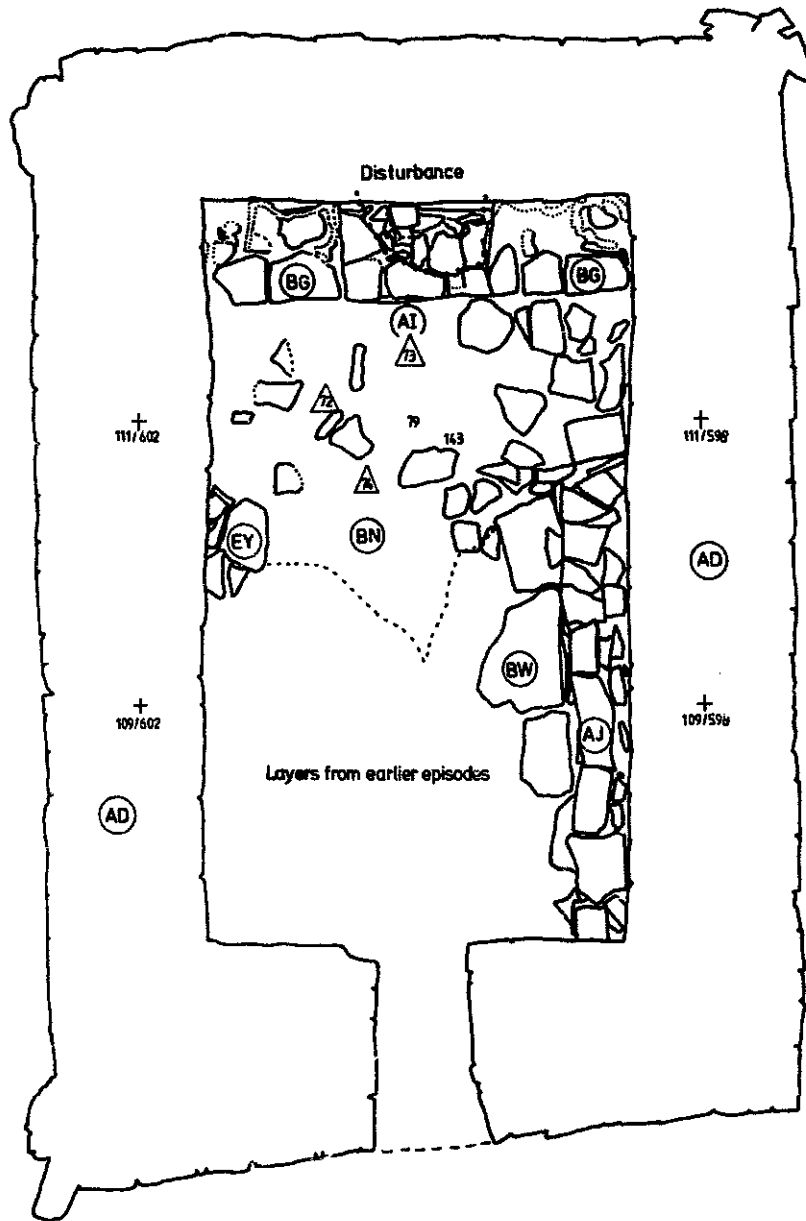
73, steatite sherd: BN

74, iron nail: BN

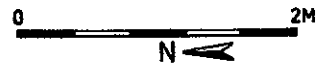
79, pottery sherd: BN

143, pumice: BN

# EPISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL



## EPISODE 7



Where small finds are not in triangles  
the precise location is not known

## Episode 8

### Summary

Mortar was laid down over the east end of the nave, and over the 'steps'. Also mortar within the altar and on its sides, as well as the chapel walls.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 77 )

Overlying BN, at the east end of the chapel, up against the altar, was a layer of mortar, BK, representing a significant surface, which contained four fragments of bone eight shells, and some burnt material. Mortar samples were taken.

During this phase, the stone settings, BG, would appear to have gone out of use for the mortar overlying them appears identical to that in the nave.

A rough mortar skin had been smeared onto the sides of the altar, and also on the chapel walls on either side of the altar, and partly down the north and south walls, to a point roughly on line with the east end of the south bench. If the bench was in place when the mortar was applied, the work must have been done in a late episode of the chapel's use.

As mentioned above (3: B4), mortar (GN) was found within the altar, and probably relates to this episode. Mortar samples were taken.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Mortar: BK

Burnt material: BK

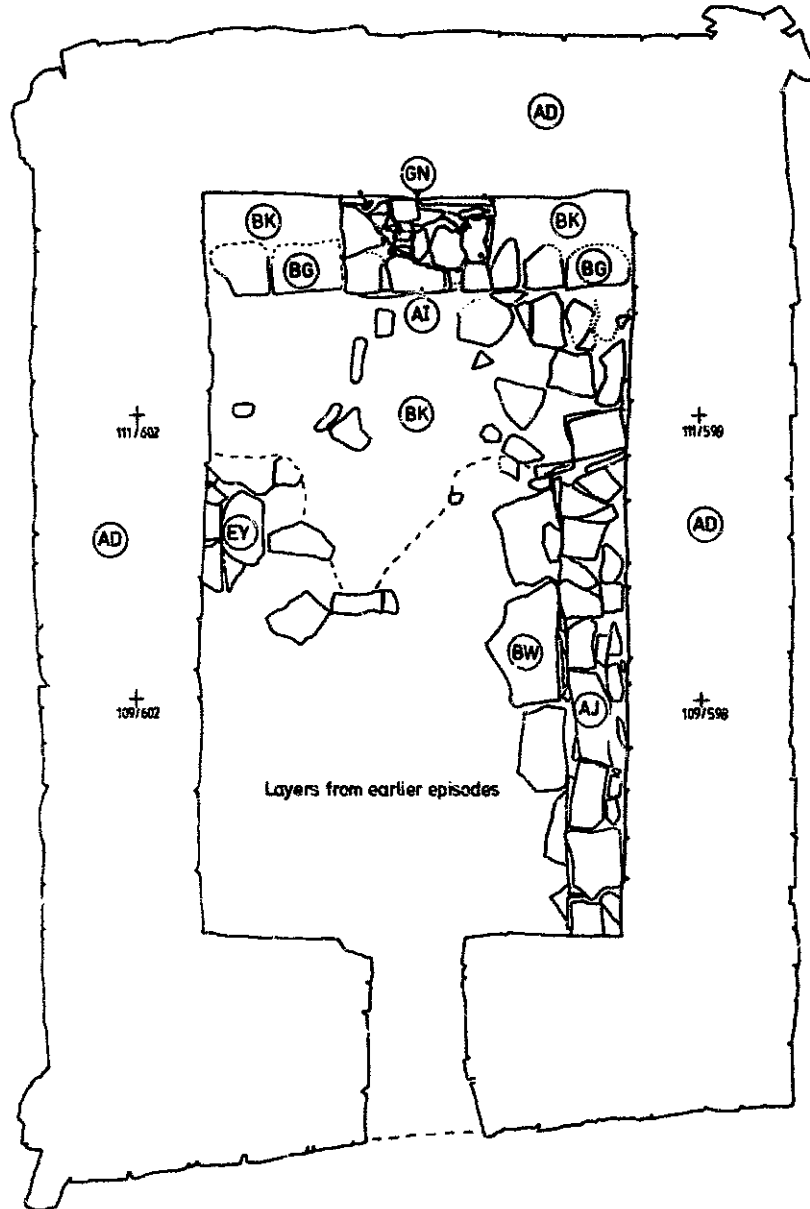
Bone: BK

Shell: BK

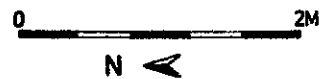
### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

None.

EPISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL



EPISODE 8



ILLUS 77



## Episode 9

### SUMMARY

This episode is marked by a uniform deposit over the area enclosed by the stone walls, with two areas of burning associated. In addition, the altar was disturbed. The chapel must have gone out of use.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 78 )

During this phase the chapel was in a state of decay. The interior had become covered with grey clay mixed with gravel and some stones, AR. This layer was probably the most productive in terms of artefacts, with 40 fragments of pottery ( 4: B5-8 ). The pottery included both coarse, grass-tempered and gritty wares, and those of a finer, harder fabric. A copper alloy pin, Recorded Find 42, two copper alloy objects, Recorded Find 69, and an iron nail-head, Recorded Find 141, were also found in the layer. There were in addition 113 mammal bone fragments, 53 shells, a fish bone, and one possible worked bone found in the deposit.

Two burnt areas, BF and BL, appear to be associated with this phase of decay. Layer BF produced 16 fragments of pottery. The pieces recovered were of coarse fabric, containing fine grit, and some evidence of grass tempering. There were also a number of bones and some shells found in the layer; samples were taken.

Above the mortar, GN, in the altar (Episode 8) was an area of disturbance. The fill (GM) of loose earth and rubble could relate to either this episode or Episode 10. It contained, not surprisingly, a quantity of mortar, together with a number of animal bones.

General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: AR

Mortar: AR, GM

Wood?: AR

Charcoal: AR, BF

Bone: AR, BF, GM

Shell: AR, BF

Crustacea: AR

Soil Samples: BF, BL

Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

40, pottery sherd: AR

41, pottery sherd: AR

42, copper-alloy pin: AR

43, pottery sherd: AR

44, 2 pottery sherds: AR

45, pottery sherd: AR

46, pottery sherd: AR

48, pottery sherd: AR

49, pottery sherd: AR

50, pottery sherd: AR

51, pottery sherd: AR

52, pottery sherd: AR

53, pottery sherd: AR

54, 15 pottery sherds: BF

55, pottery sherd: AR

56, pottery sherd: AR

57, pottery sherd: AR

58, pottery sherd: AR

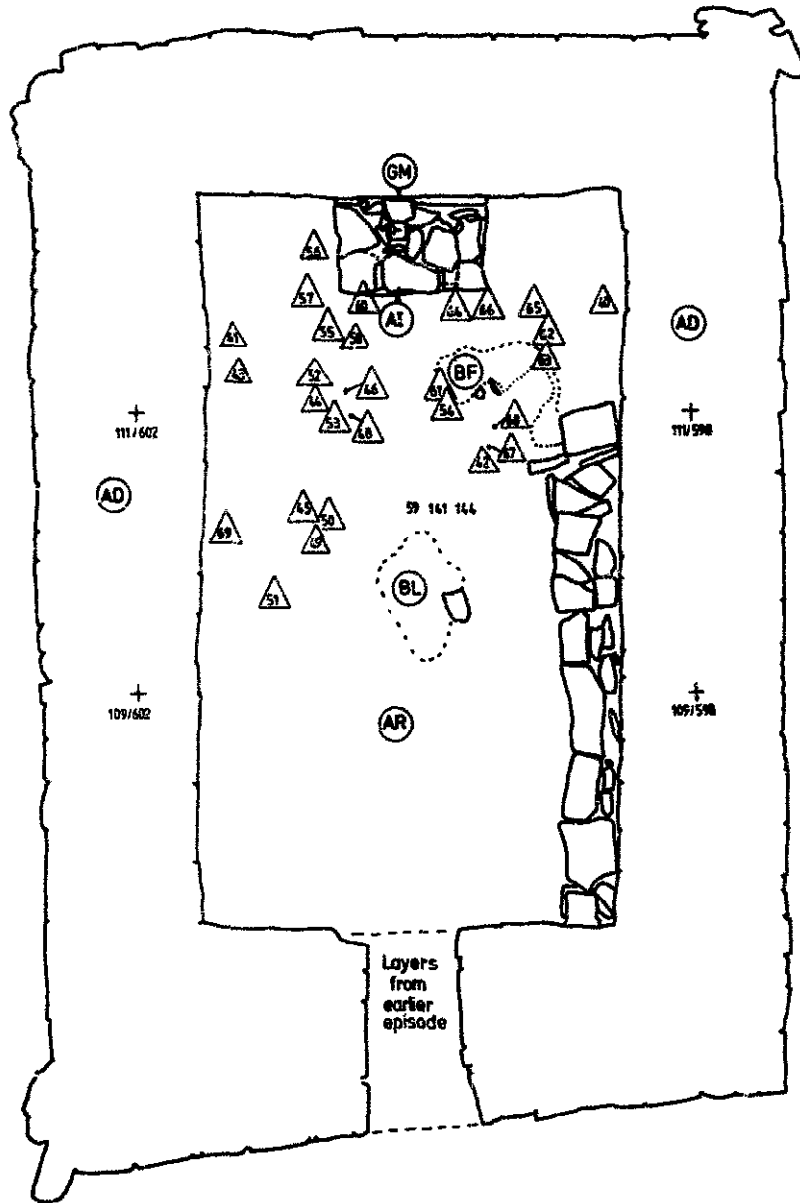
59, pottery sherd: AR

60, pottery sherd: AR

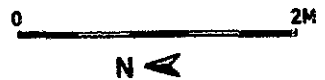
Recorded Finds from Layers and Features (cont'd)

- 61, pottery sherd: BF
- 62, 2 pottery sherds: AR
- 63, pottery sherd: AR
- 64, pottery sherd: AR
- 65, pottery sherd: AR
- 66, 3 pottery sherds: AR
- 67, 2 pottery sherds: AR
- 68, 10 pottery sherds: AR
- 69, 2 copper-alloy objects: AR
- 141, iron nail-head: AR
- 144, pottery sherd: AR

# EPIISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL



## EPIISODE 9



Where small finds are not in triangles  
the precise location is not known

ILLUS 78

## Episode 10

### Summary

From episode 9 onwards the condition of the church progressed from decay to collapse.

### Connected Account of Layers and Episodes (see Illus 79 )

In episode 10 the interior became completely covered with a thick brown clay and collapsed wall stone, AL. Amongst it was one particularly large stone, that might be the mensa. Amongst this material was found a fragment of metal vessel of copper alloy, Recorded Find 35; two pieces of iron containing a rivet-shank and plate, Recorded Finds 36 and 165 and others of copper-alloy, Recorded Find 37, and two pieces of industrial residue, Recorded Finds 145 and 146. Mammal bone, fish bone, shell, wood, charcoal, mortar and stone were also found.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: AL

Mortar: AL

Wood: AL

Charcoal: AL

Bone: AL

Shell: AL

### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

35, copper-alloy vessel-rim: AL

36, iron rivet-shank and plate: AL

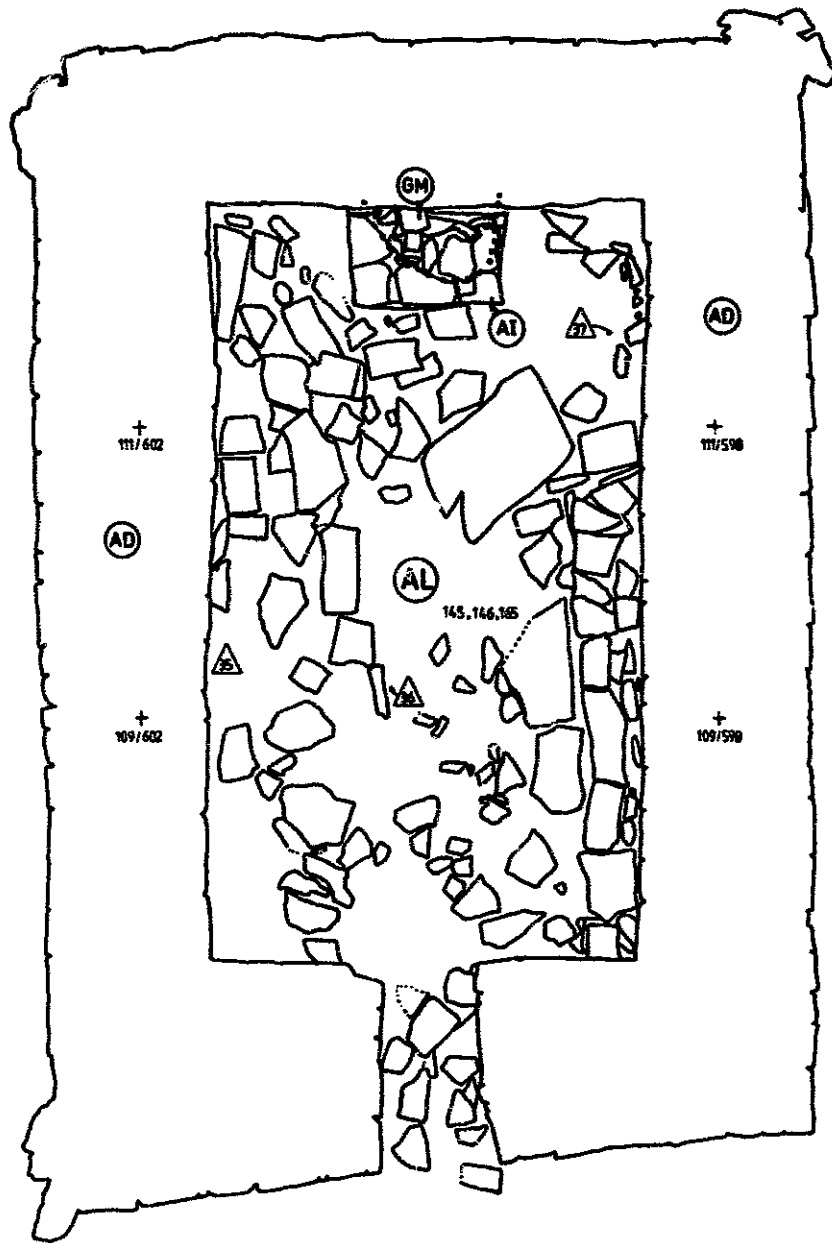
37, copper-alloy lumps: AL

145, industrial residue: AL

146, industrial residue: AL

165, iron plate: AL

# EPISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL



EPISODE 10



Where small finds are not in triangles  
the precise location is not known

ILLUS 79

3 : C11

## Episode 11

### Summary

This episode is marked by extensive stone collapse.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 80 )

Further collapse occurred, with tumble (AK) falling into the chapel. That area marked as (K) on the plan is the area cleared by the squad before excavation began. At this stage the first deposit of coins occurs, with nine coins of Charles II (1660-85), probably representing 'pilgrims' offerings (Recorded Finds 9, 10, 13-18, and 33). Other Recorded Finds were a stone pot-boiler (154), and an iron nail (34). General finds included stone, shell-casing, clay-pipe fragments, mortar, shell and bone, and appear to date up to the recent past. For instance, a 'Bandit' chocolate biscuit wrapper with a hand-written prayer on it was found in this layer.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: AK

Mortar: AK

Metal: AK

Clay-pipe: AK

Bone: AK

Shell: AK

### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

9, copper-alloy coin: AK

10, copper-alloy coin: AK

13, copper-alloy coin: AK

14, iron lumps: AK

15, copper-alloy coin: AK

16, copper-alloy coin: AK

17, copper-alloy coin: AK

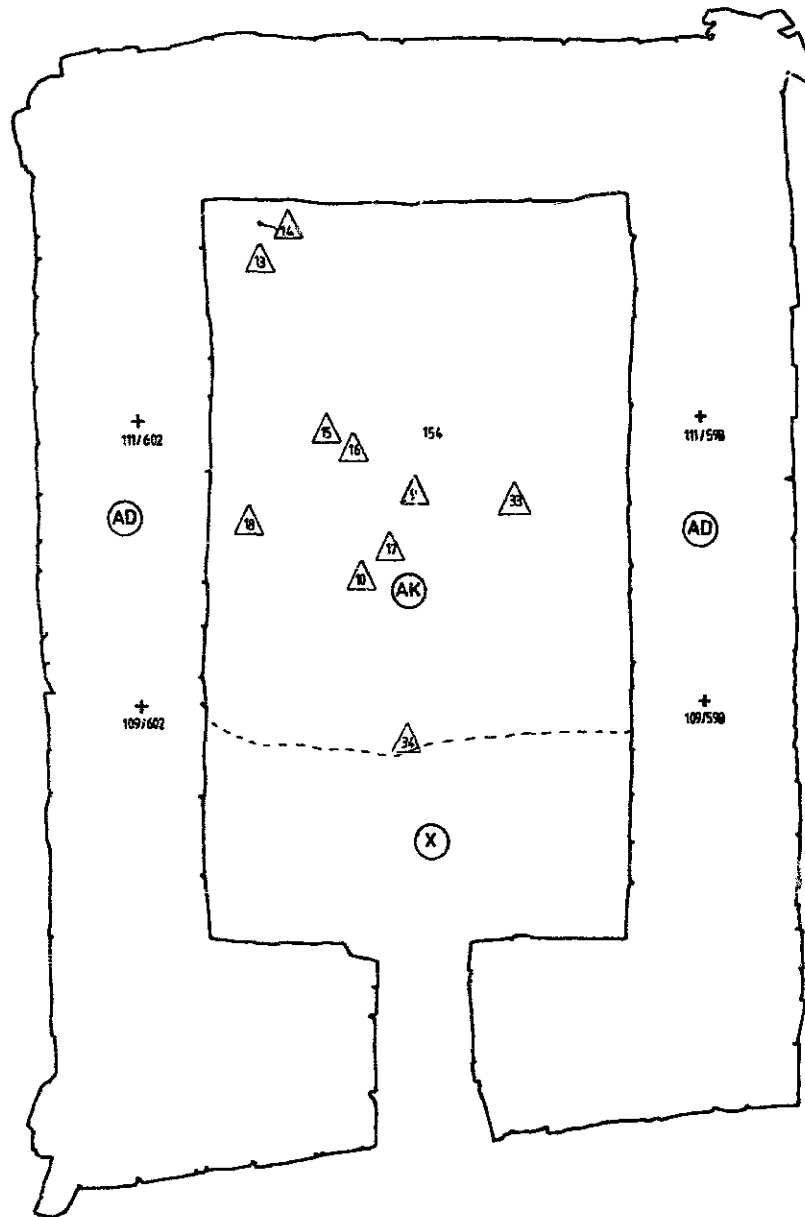
18, copper-alloy coin: AK

33, copper-alloy coin: AK

34, iron nail: AK

154, stone pot-boiler: AK

# EPISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL



EPISODE 11

Where small finds are not in triangles the precise location is not known



ILLUS 80



## Episode 12

### Summary

During this phase the whole of the chapel interior became covered with stones, AE and AA.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 81 )

The site appears to have continued to be used as a place of pilgrimage, with 23 further coins being placed inside the chapel, covering a date range of 1642 to 1806 (Recorded Finds 1, 2, 4-8, 11, 12, 19-32: 4: B12-13 ). Other finds included mortar, and clay-pipe fragments, stone, bone and shell, from the very deep deposit of stones, which even covered over the altar. Some stone had been replaced around the altar by the squad (AH).

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: AA, AE, AH

Mortar: AA, AE

Clay-pipe: AA

Bone: AE

Shell: AE

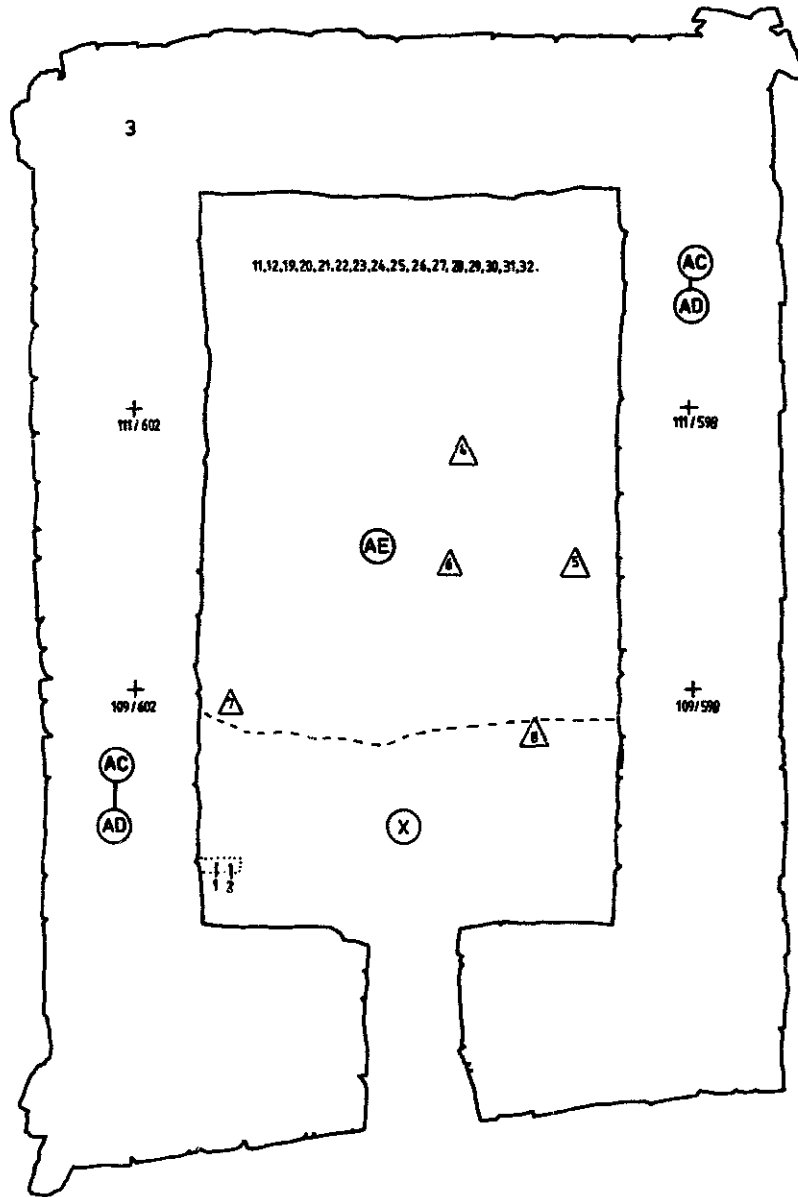
### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

- 1, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 2, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 4, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 5, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 6, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 7, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 8, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 11, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 12, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 19, Copper-alloy coin: AE

Recorded Finds from Layers and Features (Cont'd)

- 20, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 21, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 22, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 23, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 24, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 25, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 26, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 27, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 28, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 29, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 30, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 31, Copper-alloy coin: AE
- 32, Copper-alloy coin: AE

# EPISODES INSIDE THE CHAPEL



EPISODES 12/13

Where small finds are not in triangles  
the precise location is not known

ILLUS 81

### Episode 13

#### Summary and Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 81 )

The deserted ruins were used for military target practice, which increased its state of dereliction. Examination of the structure before excavation in 1975 demonstrated that all corners had been hit, and a series of explosions had clearly occurred along the south wall. Probably the west wall also had been hit. Afterwards, occasional visitors wandered over the site, evidently effecting some slight repairs, with the replacement of some of the fallen stones back into the walls. Amongst one of these repairs was a 1971 penny Recorded Find 3 in AC. Other stones, shell-metal and bones were collected.

#### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: AC

Metal: AC

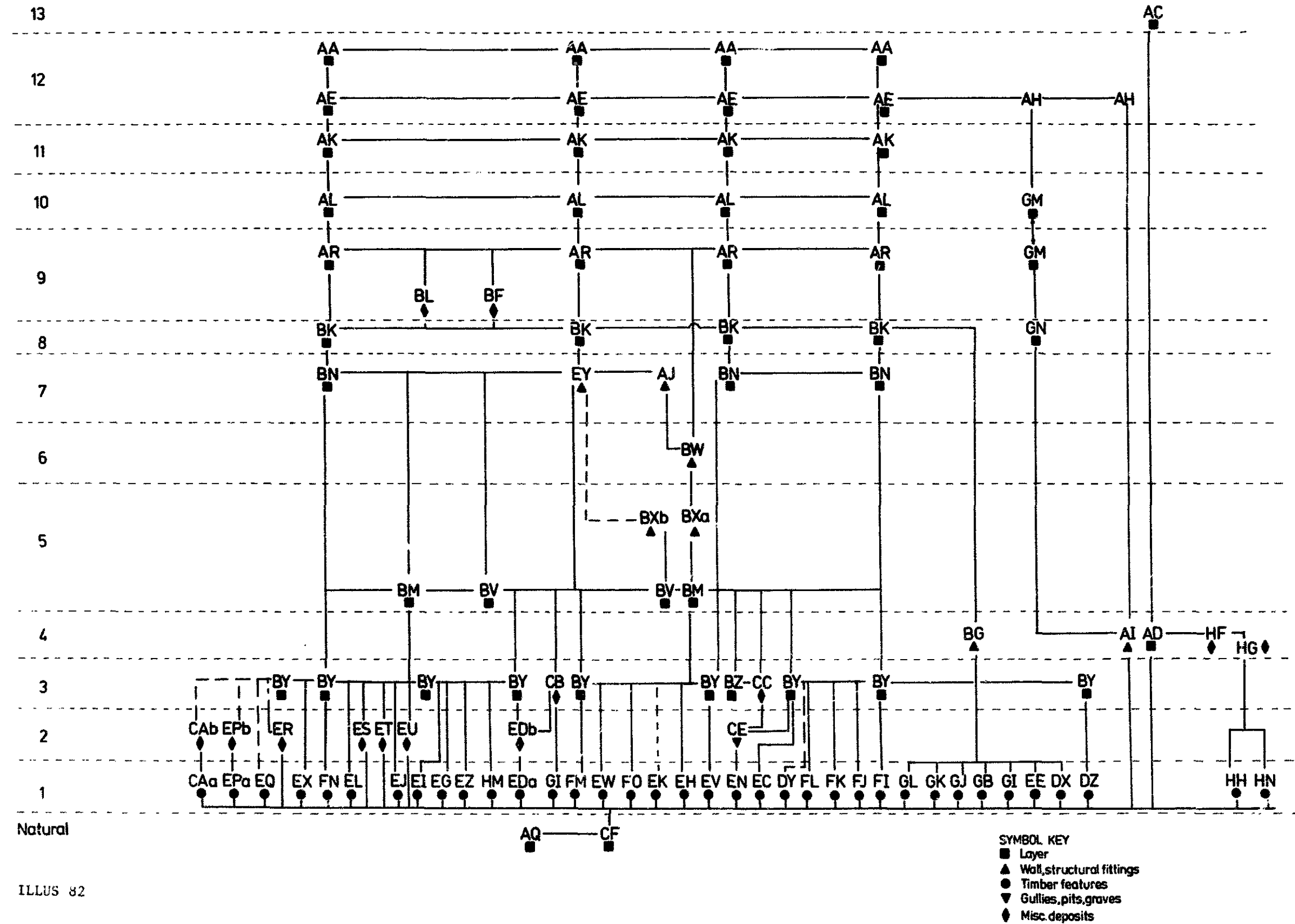
Bone: AC

#### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

3, Copper-alloy coin: AC

CHAPEL INTERIOR : STRATIGRAPHIC HIERARCHY

EPISODE



ILLUS 82

Summary of Layers by Episode

Natural Layers

AQ, CF

Episode 1

Caa, DX, DY, DZ, EC, EDa, EE, EG, EH, EI, EJ, EK, EL, EN, EPa, EQ, EV, EW, EX, EZ,  
FI, FJ, FK, FL, FM, FN, FO, GB, GI, GJ, GK, GL, HH, HM, HN

Episode 2

CAb, CE, FDb, EPb, ER, ES, ET, EU

Episode 3

BY, BZ, CB, CC

Episode 4

AD, AI, BG, HF, HG

Episode 5

BM, BV, Bxa, Bxb

Episode 6

BW

Episode 7

AJ, BN, FY

Episode 8

BK, GN

Episode 9

AR, BF, BL, GM

Episode 10

AL

Episode 11

AK

Episode 12

AA, AE, AH

Episode 13

AC

## THE ENCLOSURE AREA

### Episode 1

#### Summary

The earliest episode of activity on the ground which later became the enclosure, comprised a number of features cut into the natural clay B0. The most prominent were a series of gullies. In the northern part of the site a curving gully, with associated post-holes, was found and a smaller stretch in the south-west corner. To the east a north-south aligned gully delimited an area which included a group of post-holes and a small grave. A similar grave was found to the south, near to a section of primary walling below the later stone chapel's south wall. No gully was found in the area excavated to the south. A number of post-holes and other features cut into B0 were recovered, and this episode is taken to be equivalent to Episode 1 of the Chapel area.

#### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 83 )

Within the area enclosed by the later stone perimeter wall (II, E3 ), to the north-west, was found a slightly curving gully, CD, roughly 40 cm in width, cut into the natural clay, B0. Shallow marks were seen to the west, CV, suggesting its presence curving round towards the centre of the internal face of the later west perimeter wall and a short section of gully was also noted close to the south-west corner of the churchyard, GH. However, there was no visible evidence of connection between these and CD on the ground. At the centre of the internal face of the later north perimeter wall was also found a depression in the ground, DI, suggestive of the continuation of the curving gully, CD. 1.40 m to the east of the east end of the later stone chapel, was found another gully, GS, 6.90 m long and 32 cm wide, cut 7 cm into the natural clay, B0. The section found was virtually straight, aligned north-south, and there was no evidence of a connection between it and the possible gully section in the north, DI. No evidence was found in the southern area for a gully, associated with either GS or the curved gully, GH.

However, it could have been further to the south, outside the excavated area. Bones were found in the fill of gullies CD, CV, and GH. In addition, a number of stones were recovered, including a stone pot-lid (Recorded Find 108), stones originally thought to be mould fragments (Recorded Finds 123, 124), and a stone lump originally thought to be bog iron (Recorded Find 134). Other finds included charcoal, shell, and clinker/slag.

The gullies enclosed an area at the centre of which was a structure which was to be replaced by a stone chapel. Grooves and holes of the timber structure are discussed in Episode 1 of the chapel area. At a stage probably contemporary with the timber features of the presumed chapel, are the remains of a wall, BR, set into the natural clay, BO, of which one course, 2.94 m in length, was found, although depressions, FG, in the clay indicate that another 1.24 m existed to the west. This section was on a slightly different alignment from the later wall, and to the east had been overlain by the south wall of the stone chapel. As it was not possible to dismantle the standing walls of the chapel, its connection with the timber features found within the stone chapel is unclear, but it may have acted as an external cladding for a chapel with internal timber fittings. No trace of early walling was found elsewhere, but fugitive remnants of a feature, BP, cut into the natural clay, immediately to the north of the north wall, were noted. Neither the early wall, nor this feature were exactly on the same alignment as the south wall of the stone built church, but were aligned slightly more south-west to north-east. Without excavation under the standing north and west walls, it was not possible to establish a direct link between the two. ( 3: E3)

Short grooves were found in the clay of the enclosure which did not form continuations of either the curved gully (CD), or the eastern gully (GS). In the west, a groove GG was found, aligned east-west, just to the south of the depression



CV. It appeared to extend under the later west enclosure wall, and was 10 cm deep. In the north-east corner of the churchyard was a north-east - south-west aligned groove (GR), 1.30 m by 20 cm by 10 cm, associated with a shallow feature FT.

Close to the internal (southern) edge of the curving gully, CD, and its possible extension DI, were a number of post-holes, particularly at the north-west, with CX, FZ, EI, DD, EO, DF, DG, DH, CY, GW and EP in a line following the gullies. Outside, and to the west of the gully CD, were two other post-holes, CW and EM. A feature CQ is associated with the extension DI. Between the gullies and the stone chapel, to the north, other post-holes and apparent timber features were also found scattered: CL, CN, GV, DJ, FP, GA, DB, DA and CZ.

Between gully CV and the west wall of the chapel, were CR, CS, CT, and CU, and a possible post-hole DU partly underlies the wall at the entrance. Excavation around the stone walls revealed post-holes partly underlying the south section of the west wall, and the south wall. In the former case, the holes FU and HC appeared to be connected by a slight groove and HB appeared to continue their line. Near the west end of the south wall, post-hole GE was partly covered by the later wall. To the south, post-hole FF appeared to line up with the FG, the feature left after robbing of stones of the early south wall. Two other post-holes, HD and HE, in the south-west corner of the enclosure, also appear to be on the same alignment. Also in the western area an irregular feature, FH, was found between CV and gully GH. It measured 60 cm by 45 cm, and was 13 cm deep. A large post-hole, GF, was located by the south-west corner of the chapel, and a small post-hole, HA, is immediately south of the gully GH. Two other post-holes, FV and FW, are above this part of the Enclosure area.

Beyond the east end, four post-holes were found. GT and GU were found just beyond the centre of the church wall, the latter having some stone packing, while HI and HJ were filled with a brown sandy clay and some stones. An irregular feature,

HK, was found in the south-east corner of the enclosure, cut by the later grave (GC/GD) of Episode 4 ( 3; E7 ), and another feature, FQ, is located in the north-east corner.

The following, not marked on the plans, were initially thought to be features or post-holes cut into natural clay, but on excavation proved to be nothing of archaeological significance: CK, CM, CO, CP, IE, IK, DL, DM, DN, DO, DR, DS, DT, FR, and FS. Such material as was found was almost invariably bone, but most features were devoid of finds.

Four infant graves were found cut into the natural clay BO, of which two are positively identified as primary burials. DQ, at the south, was only identified once excavation had reached the clay, and it appeared as a small grave with a clay fill projecting slightly above the ground surface. The grave cut measured 73 cm by 28 cm and was 16 cm deep. With the grave were traces of a coffin, including a long strip at the north, 4-5 cms wide, the south-east corner, and a strip running roughly along the centre of the coffin. With the wood were found lumps of iron (Recorded Finds 126-9, 147, 155-161), some of which could be identified as coffin-fittings ( 4: . C1-2 ). In the fill of the grave, in addition to the coffin, were a few bits of possible burnt animal bone and some pebbles. The coffin itself contained fragmentary remains of an infant, with skull fragments, ribs and cusps being present. No grave marker was found.

Three infant graves were found at the east, of which one, GQ, was of a similar form to DQ, cut into the natural clay and plugged with clay. It was 70 cm by 30 cm and 30 cm deep, and contained 32 decayed bone fragments. The remaining two graves, GO and GP, close to the east wall of the church, and north of GQ, were less clearly of a primary nature, and are discussed below under Episode 4 (3:E6).

General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: CD, CV, DQ, GT

Bone: CD, CV, DQ, FG, FU, GE, GG, GH, GQ, GT, GU, HK

Shell: GG, GH

Clinker/slag: CD

Organic/burnt matter: DQ, GG

Charcoal: CD

Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

108, stone-lid: CD

123, non-artefactual stone: CV

124, stone fragment: CV

126, iron rivet-shank and plate: DQ

127, iron rivet-shank and plate: DQ

128, iron rivet-shank and plate: DQ

129, iron nail-head: DQ

134, non-artefactual stone: DI

147, iron rivet: DQ

155, iron plate: DQ

156, iron nail-head: DQ

157, iron plate: DQ

158, iron lump: DQ

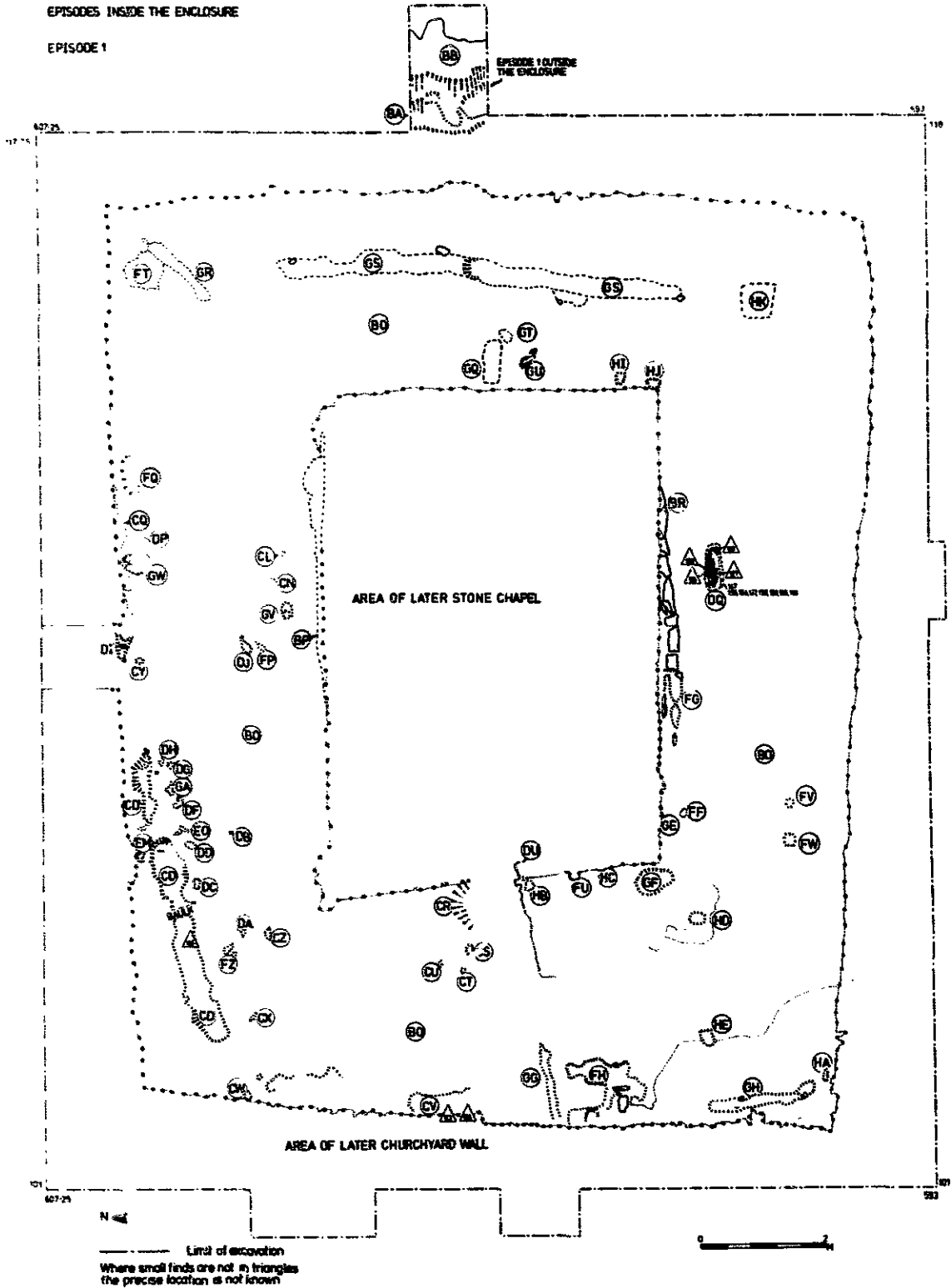
159, 3 iron lumps: DQ

160, many iron lumps: DQ

161, 2 iron plates and iron lump: DQ

EPISODES INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE

EPISODE 1



ILLUS 83

## Episode 2

### Summary

This episode consisted of a number of areas with burning or burnt material and/or stones.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Ilius 84 )

Post-dating the primary features cut into natural clay B0, were a number of burnt areas concentrated in the southern half of the enclosure: CG, CI, EA, EB, FX, FY, GX, GY, and GZ. The layers produced burnt bone, charcoal, ash and burnt stone. It would seem probable that these layers relate to the patches of burning found within the church in Episode 3, although no direct connection can be made.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: CI, EA, EB, GZ

Bone: CG, CI, EB, GZ

Charcoal: CI, GZ

Other Burnt material: CG, GZ

Soil samples: CG, EA, EB

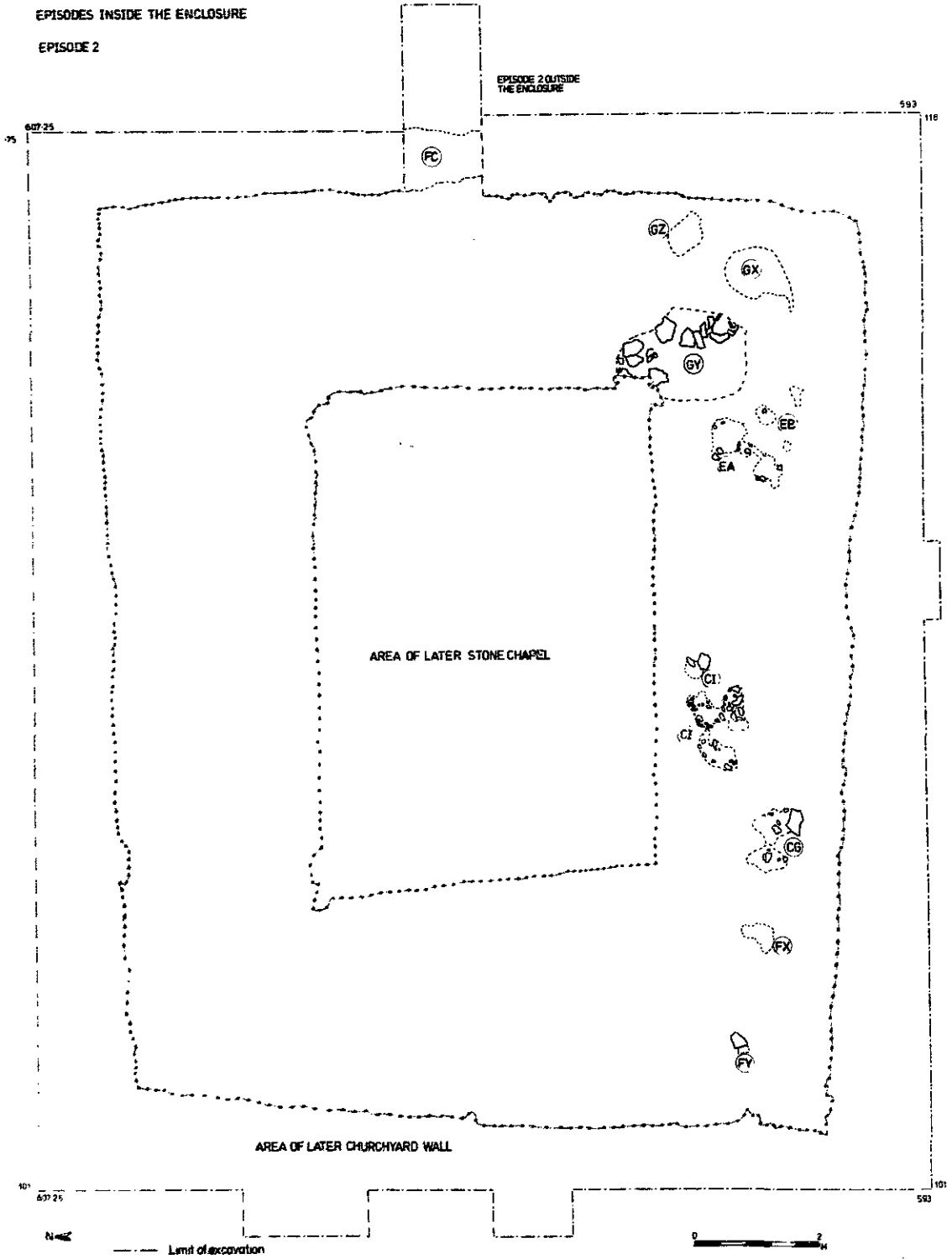
### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

None.

EPISODES INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE

EPISODE 2

EPISODE 2 OUTSIDE  
THE ENCLOSURE



ILLUS 84

### Episode 3

#### Summary

This episode consists of the construction of a stone enclosure wall.

#### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see illus 85 )

A perimeter was provided to the enclosure, by the construction of a stone wall of rough rubble construction (AN) with a core of grey/brown clay and rubble (BJ), varying in width from 75 cm to 1.00 m. Bone, including a cut fragment (Recorded Find 125), stone and burnt material were found. Internally the churchyard measured 13.90 m in length at the north, and 14.36 m at the south. It was 12.12 m wide at the east, and 10.94 m at the west. Externally, its maximum size was 16.30 m by 13.66 m. There was no evidence for a foundation-trench; the walling was built directly onto the ground surface. There was a very slight curve to the west at east walls, and the corners, particularly at the north-east, were rounded. The only evidence for an entrance was a slightly splayed gap in the south wall, 2.85 m from the interior south-west corner. It varied from 26 cm in external width, to 45 cm internally, at a point where the enclosure wall varied from 80 cm to 92 cm in width. The wall, at the entrance, was surviving 15 cm high.

The chapel was not central within the enclosure; at the west it was from 3.30 m - 4.10 m from the yard wall, at the north 3.25 - 3.36 m, at the east 3.05 - 3.10 m, and at the south 2.93 - 3.40 m. It is conceivable that the early wall, BR (3: D9 ), may come from this episode. Stratigraphically, it is earlier than BD of Episode 4 and later than the Natural Layer B0. Equally, the feature BP to the north of the north wall, while taken above to relate to Episode 1 (3: D9), has the same stratigraphic relationships. The implications of this are discussed in the main text.

General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: BJ

Bone: BJ

Burnt material: BJ

Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

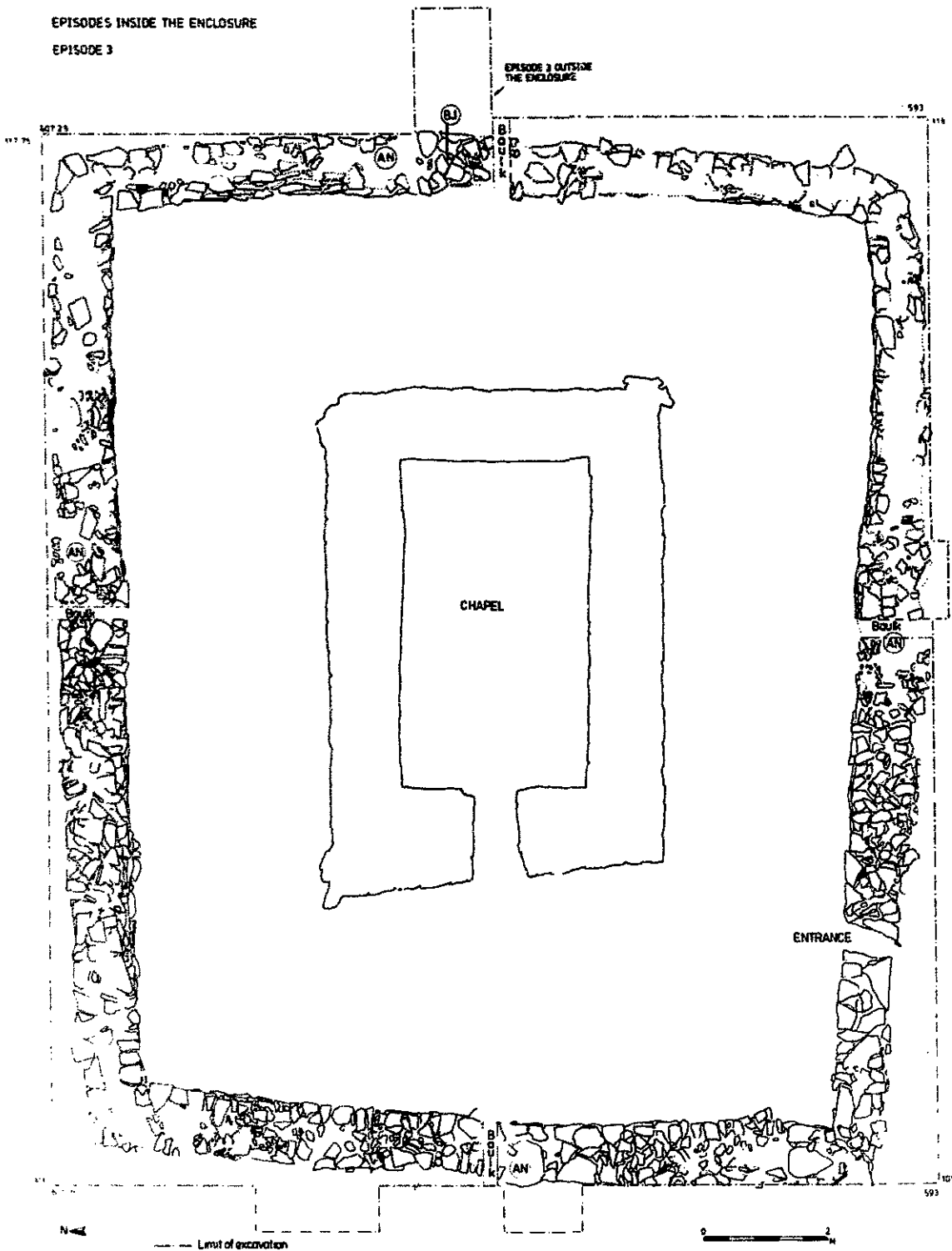
125, cut bone fragment: BJ



EPIISODES INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE

EPIISODE 3

EPIISODE 3 OUTSIDE  
THE ENCLOSURE



ILLUS 85

## Episode 4

### Summary

This episode represents a period of usage of the enclosure during which a small group of burials were made. Clay deposits occur throughout the enclosure, and a probable path of gravel laid down.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 86)

Overlying the burnt patches were spread throughout the churchyard deposits of clay varying in colour from grey-blue to brown. Layer BD, a sticky grey-blue clay, was found throughout the enclosure, except for the south-west area. The Recorded Finds comprised a wide range of material, with a particular concentration in the north-west quadrant, and of pottery. 20 pottery sherds, two steatite sherds, one piece of silver wire, three fragments of copper-alloy, about 20 objects and corroded lumps of iron, two finds of industrial residue, a whetstone, a piece of chert, a piece of flint, two finds of bone, and a miscellaneous group of objects, re-classified as non-artefactual stone, were recovered. The presence of steatite tends to imply a Viking or later Norse date.

In addition, amongst the General Finds, a large number of bone fragments were recovered, together with stones, charcoal, shell and iron-pan, particularly in the southern half of the enclosure.

Closely related to BD was CH, a brown, wet, stoney layer, with a number of bones and an iron lump (Recorded Find 140), and some of the stones noted in CH were found to extend into BD. Associated with BD and CH, was a gravel spread FB, perhaps the remains of a path from the yard entrance to the church door. Only two bone fragments were found in the gravel spread. Layer BD was found to the west of the gravel spread, and CH to the east. To the north, a burnt patch (BQ) was also closely related to BD, and a clay lens, FD, was noted within BD to the east, and contained some bones. Stratigraphically FB and FD could as well come from Episode 3.

Cut into BD in the south-west were two post-holes (DV and DW), which contained some evidence to suggest that burning had taken place. Although clearly secondary to BD, they are also covered by BT of Episode 5, so are considered here with material from Episode 4. Also closely related to BD was a brown stoney area, FE, close to the south-west corner of the church. Both layers overlay BO, and were covered by BT of Episode 5. Some bones were found in FE.

Two graves were located at the south side of the chapel, BE/BS and GC/GD. Both were distinguished by cover slabs, of which BE was the more neatly constructed. Below the cover slab of BE was a grave, 2.00 m by 50 cm by 25 cm, containing an extended skeleton aligned east-west with the head to the west, lying on its back with its right hand by its side, and the left hand over the pelvis. There was no trace of a coffin, and the grave had been filled with redeposited white clay natural. Amongst the fill was an animal bone overlying the chest area. Grave GC was distinguished by a cover of three slabs, and overlay a grave filled with rubble and clay. The cut contained the extremely decayed remains of a skeleton, and, apart from two pebbles, no other finds. The skeleton in grave BS, probably represents a male, aged between 24 and 29 years at the time of death. The fragmentary remains of GC represent a younger individual, probably between 8 and 9 years of age (see report by S Hillson, III, D11), or even  $6\frac{1}{2}$  -  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years (see analysis by D.A.Lunt, 4: D12-14).

At the east end, were two further infant graves (see 3: D11). GO included upright slabs and four cover slabs, of which two had fallen into the grave, which was 21 cm deep. Within the grave, which was 76 cm by 36 cm, one fragment of sheep astragalus was recovered. The second cist-grave, GP, consisted of base, side and capstones, with a prominent stone at the head end. It measured 72 cm by 36 cm. Forty-eight fragments of bone were found in the 13 cm deep grave, and two further bones and two shells were found in HL, the fill behind the headstone. A stone slab associated with BU/CJ of Episodes 5 and 6, and some

gravel, overlay grave GO. It was clear that the stone was not associated with the grave cover slabs as it was approximately 6 cm above the side stones, which may possibly have been covered by BD. With grave GP, the cap and end stone at the foot of the grave was on a level with the natural clay BO. Only the north side stone and headstone were visible above the clay. It would appear that the gravel, AMA, of Episode 6, was at such a level that the north side stone projected slightly above it, as did the headstone.

General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: BD, CH, GD

Bone: BD, CH, FB, FD, FE, GC, GD, GO, GP, HL

Shell: BD, HL

Miscellaneous metal: BD, CH

Industrial residue: BD

Mortar: BD

Burnt matter: BD

Charcoal: BD

Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

77, Industrial residue: BD

78, Bone fragments: BD

83, Iron lumps: ED

85, Steatite sherd: BD

89, Silver wire: BD

90, Bone tooth fragment: BD

92, Pottery sherd: BD

93, Steatite sherd: BD

94, Pottery sherd: BD

97, Pottery sherd: BD

98, Pottery sherd: BD

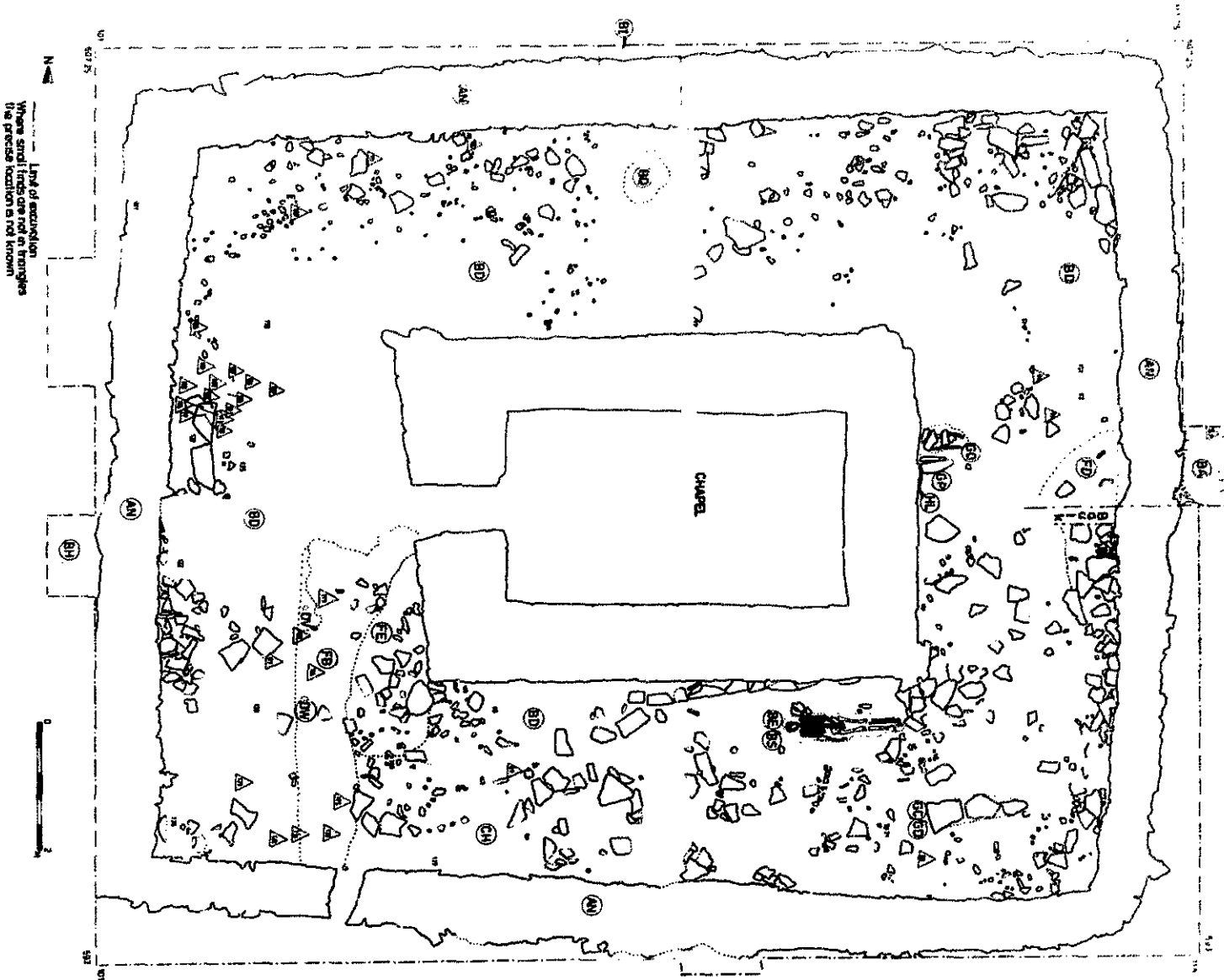
99, Iron plate: BD

100, Non-artefactual stone: BD

101, Pottery sherd: BD  
102, Pottery sherd: BD  
103, Pottery sherd: BD  
104, 3 Pottery sherds: BD  
105, Pottery sherd: BD  
106, Pottery sherd: BD  
107, Pottery sherd: BD  
109, Pottery sherd: BD  
110, Pottery sherd: BD  
111, Pottery sherd: BD  
112, Non-artefactual stone: BD  
113, Iron nail: BD  
114, Iron nail: BD  
115, 2 Pottery sherds: BD  
116, Whetstone: BD  
117, Pottery sherd: BD  
118, Iron fragments: BD  
119, 3 Copper-alloy fragments: BD  
120, Iron lump: BD  
121, Pottery sherd: BD  
122, Iron fragments: BD  
130, Non-artefactual stone: BD  
131, Non-artefactual stone: BD  
132, Non-artefactual stone: BD  
135, 8 Iron lumps: BD  
136, Non-artefactual stone: BD  
138, Non-artefactual stone: BD  
139, Industrial residue: BD  
140, Iron lump: CH  
150, Chert: BD  
151, Flint: BD

EPISODES INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE  
EPISODE 4

EPISODE 4 OUTSIDE  
THE ENCLOSURE



Line of excavation  
Where exact finds are not at triangles  
the precise location is not known

ILLUS 86

3 : B10

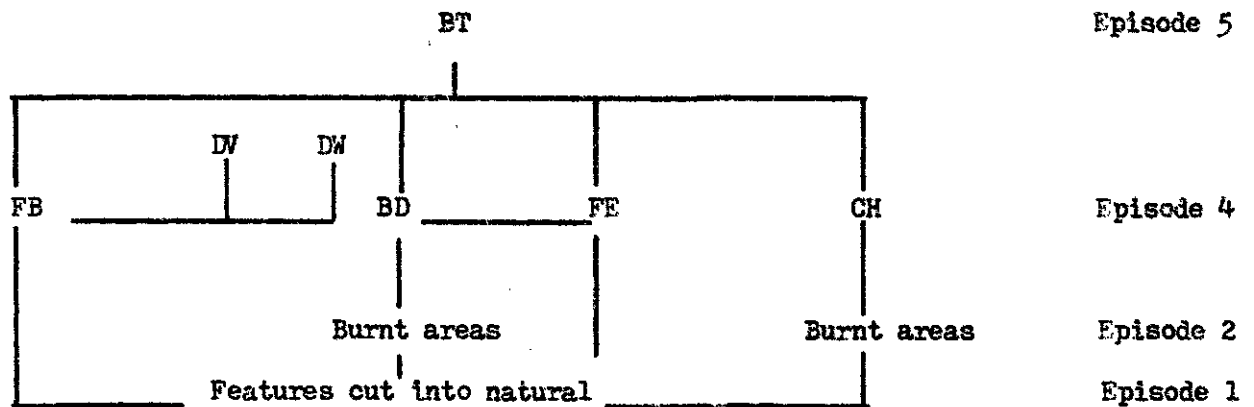
## Episode 5

### Summary

A further period of usage is indicated by a group of deposits around the stone chapel that were lying on top of BD. They are essentially mixed stone and clay deposits.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 87 )

To the south of the stone chapel, overlying BD, CH, and FB was a deposit of brown clayey soil with stones, BT. It was also found over FE, at the south-west corner, although the layer descriptions of BT and FE are the same, and stones in FE appear in BT. It is apparently similar to Layer BN, a brown clay inside the Chapel from Episode 7. Diagrammatically, the layer-relationships are as follows:



General finds from the layer comprise bones, a small amount of shell, and some stone and burnt material. Also, some iron lumps (Recorded Finds 80 and 164), a sherd of pottery (Recorded Find 81) and a quartz lump (Recorded Find 82) came from this layer.

At the north-west corner was a dark stoney patch, AZ, which produced two animal bones, some stones and seven iron lumps (Recorded Find 162).

To the east of the chapel, Layer FA was a gravelly feature which included some animal bone. The stratigraphical sequence appears to indicate that the hollow at the north-east corner of the chapel contained some flattish stone and gravel (BU) which probably related to the gravel spread AMA of Episode 6. Below, but probably related to BU, were a few stones, CJ, slightly lower down in the hollow. Only one fragment of bone, some stone, and a little burnt material were found.

It should be noted that, stratigraphically, it could be the case that graves BE/BS and GC/GD could as well be from Episode 5 as 4. They are set on and in BD, so could be contemporary or later. It seemed most logical to treat them as the same episode as graves GO and GP, and in a similar fashion to post-holes DV and DW, ie as coming from Episode 4. However, this is not conclusive. Stratigraphically, the infant graves GO and GP are tied in by the relationship of GO to CJ (see 3: F1 ). As CJ and BU of Episode 6 were closely associated, it may be unwarranted to treat them as from different episodes. If so, and both CJ and BU come from Episode 6, the graves, therefore, could possibly relate to Episode 5.

#### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: AZ, BT, CJ, FA

Burnt material: BT, CJ

Bone: AZ, BT, CJ, FA

Shell: BT

#### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

80, Iron lumps: BT

81, Pottery sherd: BT

82, Quartz lump: BT

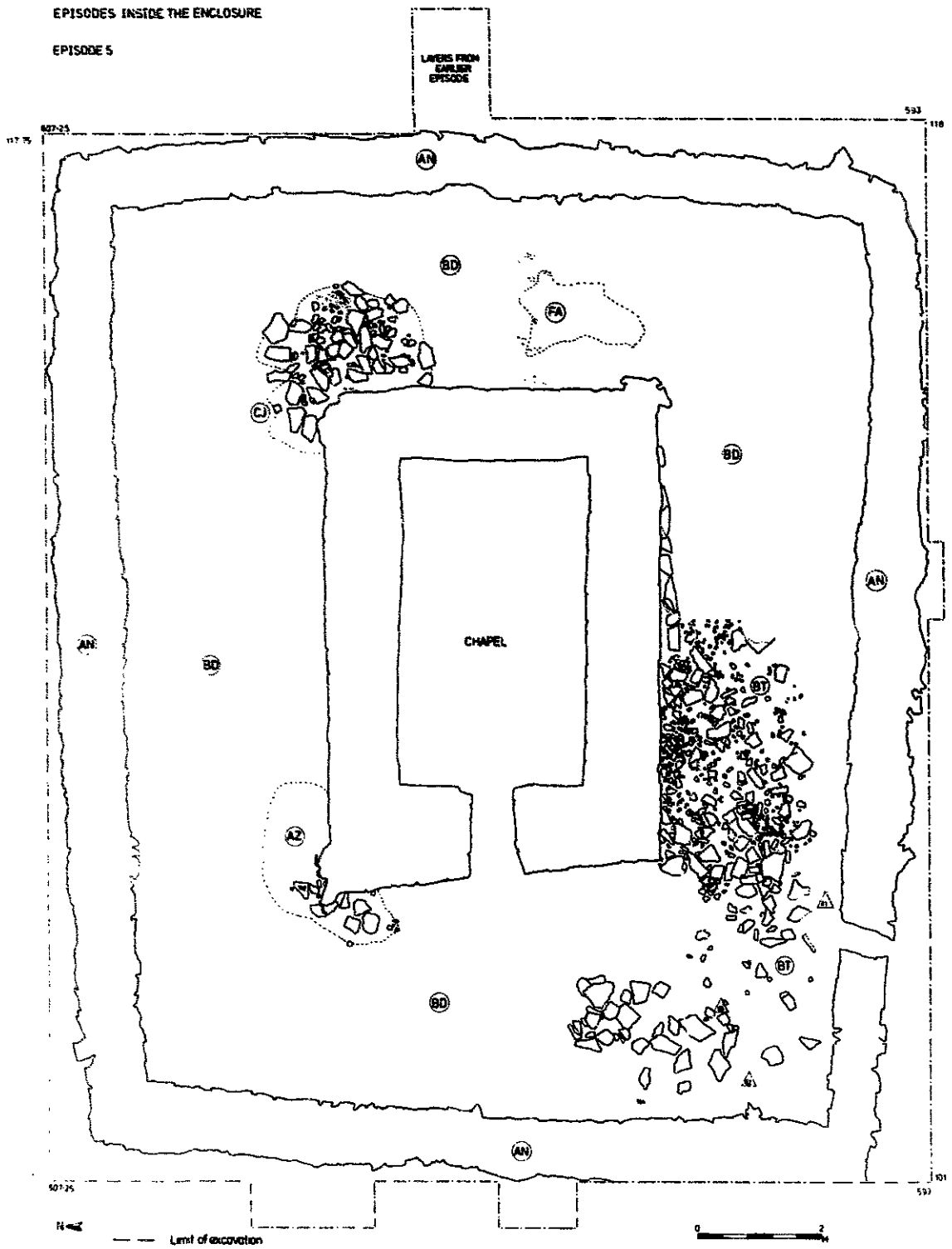
162, 7 Iron lumps: AZ

164, Iron lumps: BT



EPISODES INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE

EPISODE 5



ILLUS 87

## Episode 6

### Summary

This episode consists of a layer of stones in a hollow at the north-east corner of the chapel, together with a general gravel layer around the chapel.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 88 )

Scattered around the chapel was a spread of gravel, AMA, which filled into a hollow at the north-east corner of the chapel, over CJ of Episode 5. About 78 fragments of bone were found in the main layer, with 2 shells, iron-pan (Recorded Find 70) and a piece of mortar. The gravel spread ranged from 1.30 m - 1.80 m in width. In the hollow were stones BU over the lower, but closely associated, stone CJ of Episode 5. These may well represent a levelling-up deposit before the gravel was laid down. The gravel appears to represent a pathway or at least a surface, and the finding of some pebbles in association with it, may not be without significance in view of the traditions associated with the site.

Six bone fragments, and a fishbone (Recorded Find 88), seven shells, 17 lumps of calcite, a piece of pumice (Recorded Find 71), and a pottery sherd (Recorded Find 91) came from the stones, BU.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: BU, AMA

Bone: BU, AMA

Shell: BU, AMA

### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

70, Iron-pan: AMA

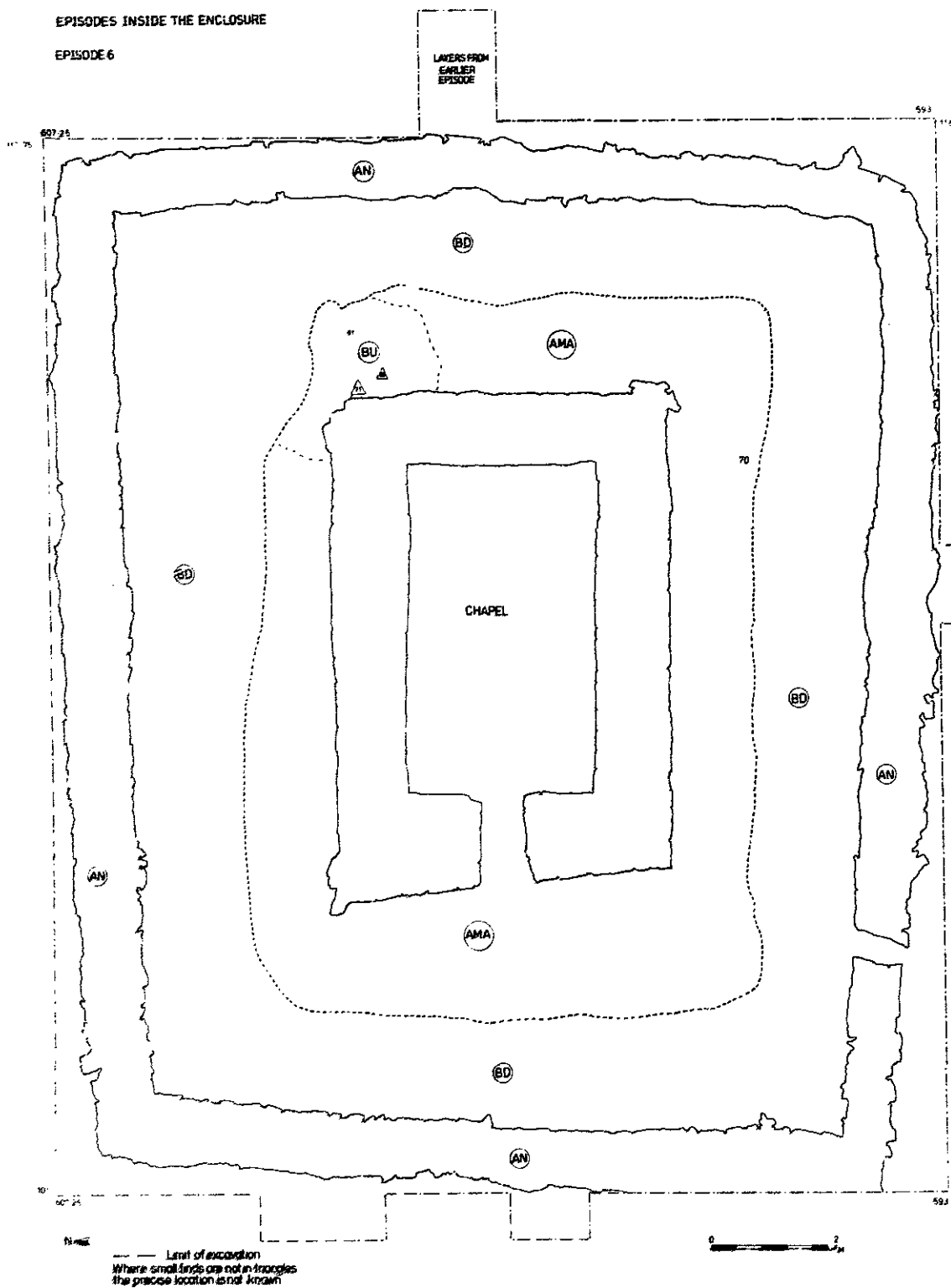
71, Pumice: BU

88, Fish-bone: BU

91, Pottery sherd: BU

EPIISODES INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE

EPIISODE 6



ILLUS 88

## Episode 7

### Summary

An episode represented by accumulation of loose small tumble across part of the enclosure area.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 89 )

This episode represents a period of desertion, with a spread of loose, small tumble, AG, off the chapel and across the part of the enclosure area. Some of this material had been cleared by the D O E squad, prior to excavation, in the area nearest the stone chapel, along with higher layers (see Illus 22 & 52). However, it is clear that the tumble must have fallen from the chapel walls and/or roof, as it does not extend much further out from the chapel than the area of the earlier gravel surface of Episode 6. From this layer were recovered 19 bones, six shells, a number of stones (including a flint pebble, Recorded Find 152), four iron lumps (Recorded Find 163) and a quantity of shell-metal, and a lump of mortar.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: AG

Mortar: AG

Bone: AG

Shell: AG

Miscellaneous metal: AG

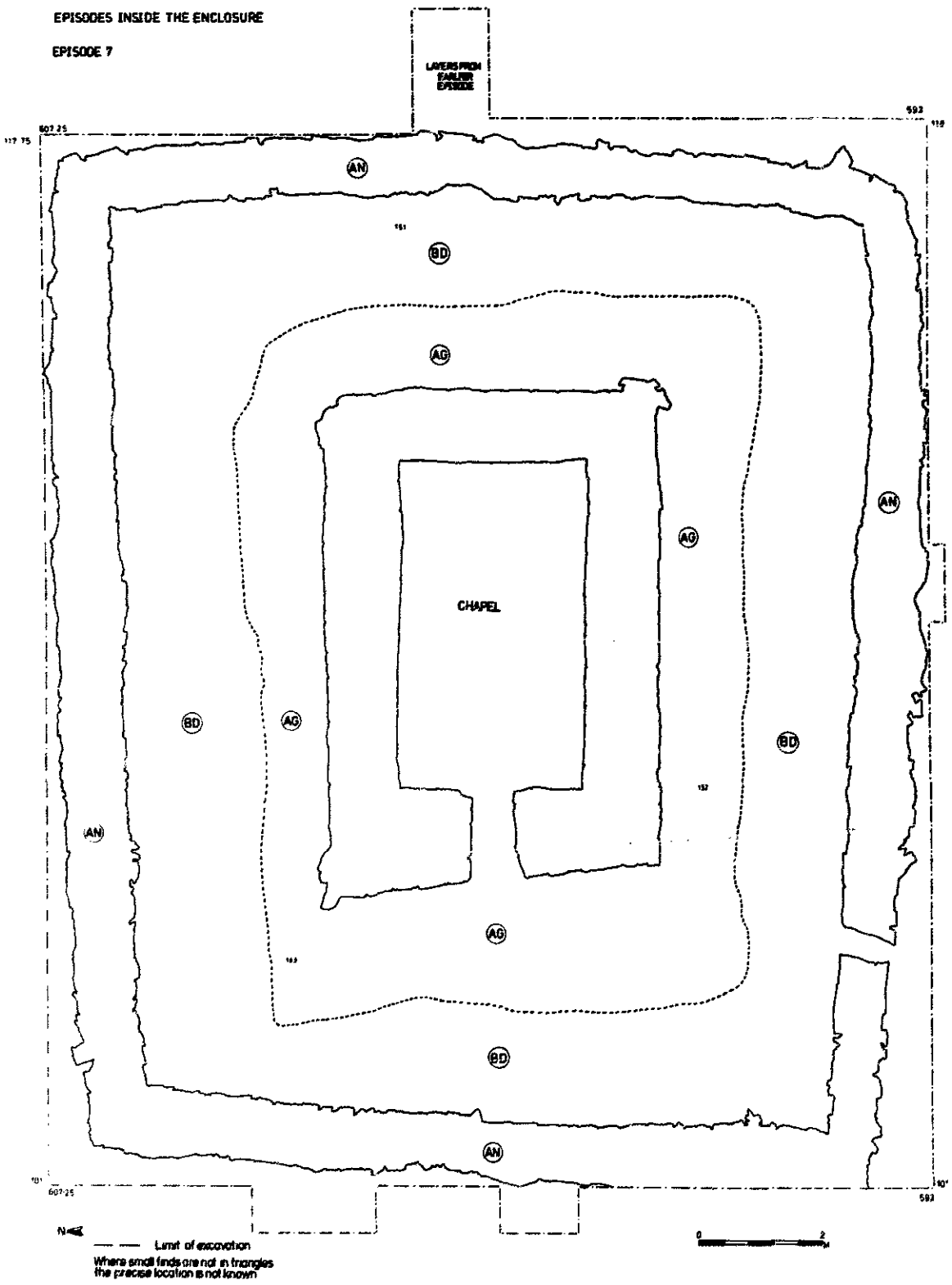
### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

152, Flint pebble: AG

163, 4 Iron lumps: AG

EPISODES INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE

EPISODE 7



ILLUS 89

## Episode 8

### Summary

A uniform dark clayey soil was deposited throughout the enclosure area in this episode.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 90 )

A grey-brown, partly rooty clay, AY, appears to have been deposited over most of the area, with AU, a dark brown soil in the eastern area, and AO and AW in the northern and southern areas, probably associated. Finds were limited to a small number of bones and shells, charcoal and metal (Recorded Find 84). Some of layer AY had been removed by D O F workmen, prior to excavation, and this is marked on the plan as AA.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: AY

Bone: AY

Charcoal: AY

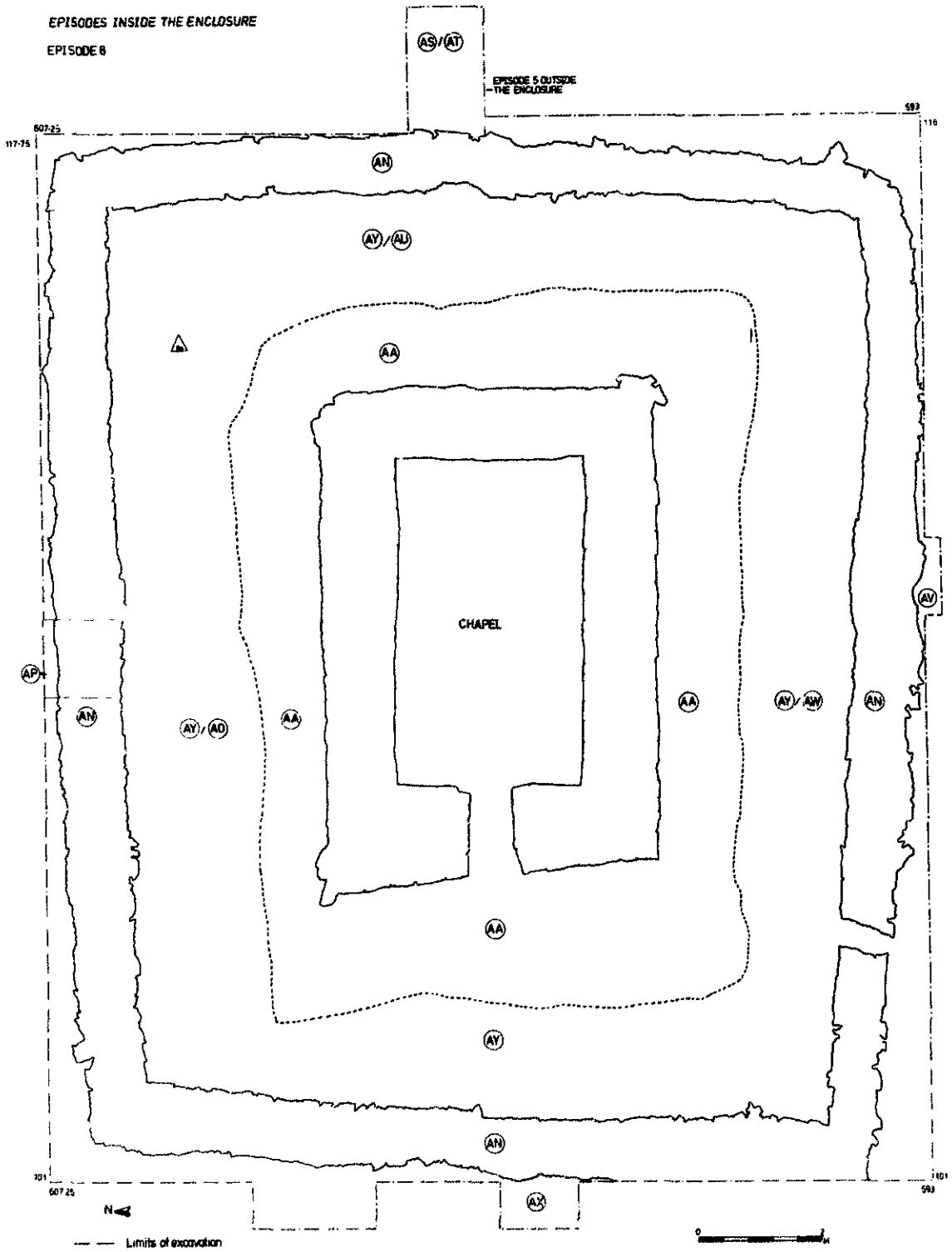
Shell: AY

### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

84, Iron lump: AY

EPISODES INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE

EPISODE 6



ILLUS 90

## Episode 9

### Summary

Tumble uniformly spread across the enclosure indicates the latest stage of collapse of the chapel and enclosure wall.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 91 )

Further collapse of the chapel and enclosure wall occurred, with the deposit of tumble, AM, across the whole area (except where cleared by the D O E squad). A few bones and shells were found, but the layer produced mixed dating evidence, from a coin of Charles II (Recorded Find 38), to a clay pipe made by Pye and Robertson of Edinburgh in 1881 (Recorded Find 39), and a piece of modern wood. Fragments of artillery shell casing were found in this layer, as well as in the layer above in Episode 8. The fragments may be contemporary with Episode 9, but the projectiles may have become embedded in the lower layer on landing, during a firing session at a later period in time. Part of a stone-tile (Recorded Find 153) was also found.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: AM

Bone: AM

Shell: AM

Miscellaneous metal: AM

Wood: AM

### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

38, Copper-alloy coin: AM

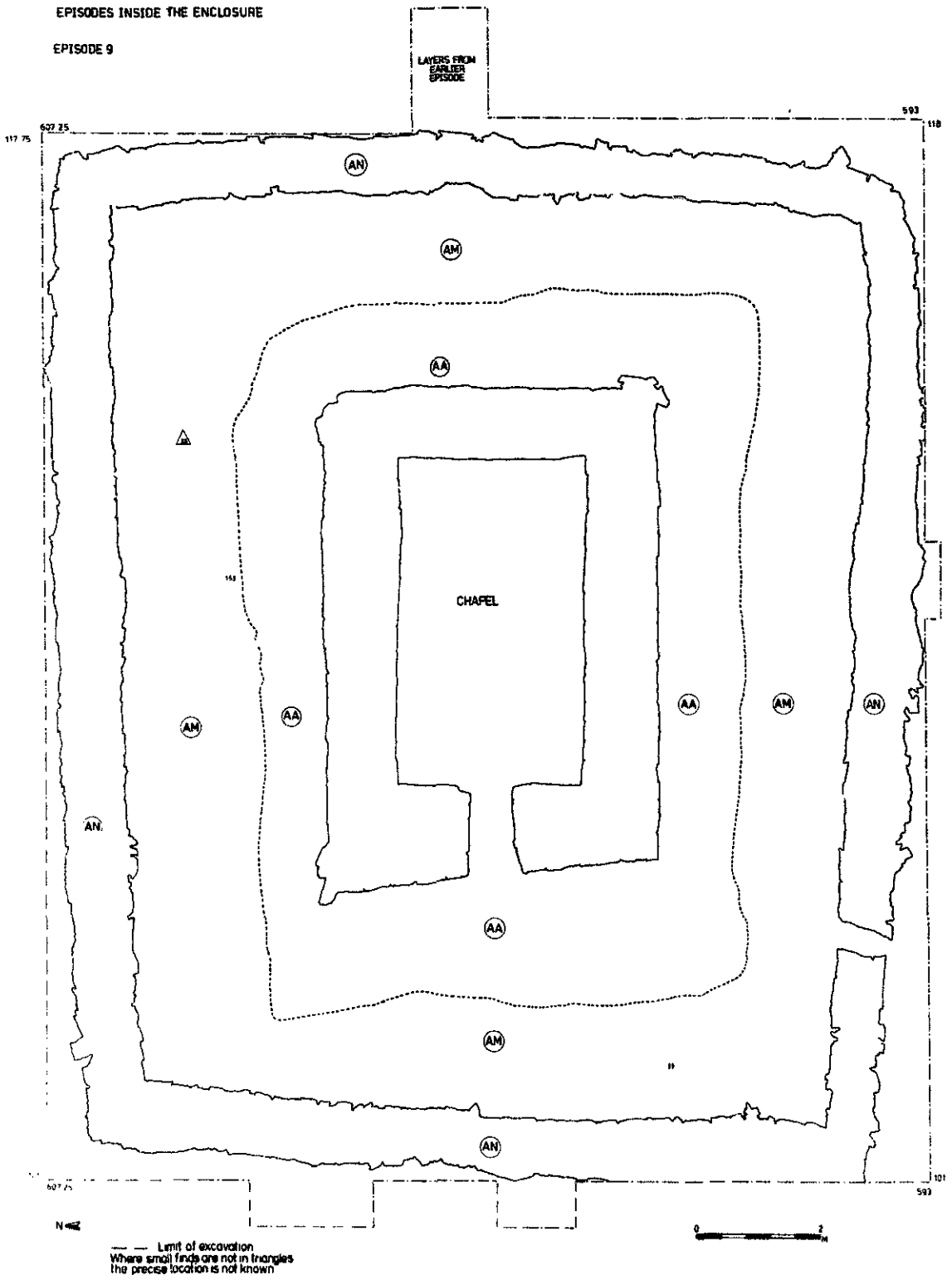
39, Clay pipe: AM

153, Stone tile: AM



EPISODES INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE

EPISODE 9



ILLUS 91

## Episode 10

### Summary

Desertion of the site, with sub-turf and turf developing.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 92 )

Complete desertion of the site, with the formation of sub-turf, AF.

Amongst the layer was found a small amount of animal bone, including Recorded Find 86, and shell, with 16 pieces of metal shell casing. Stones, including Recorded Find 133, were also collected. Turf, AB, developed over AF. Some of the layer AF was removed by the D O E squad prior to excavation: it is marked as AA on the plan.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: AF

Bone: AF

Shell: AF

Miscellaneous metal: AF

### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

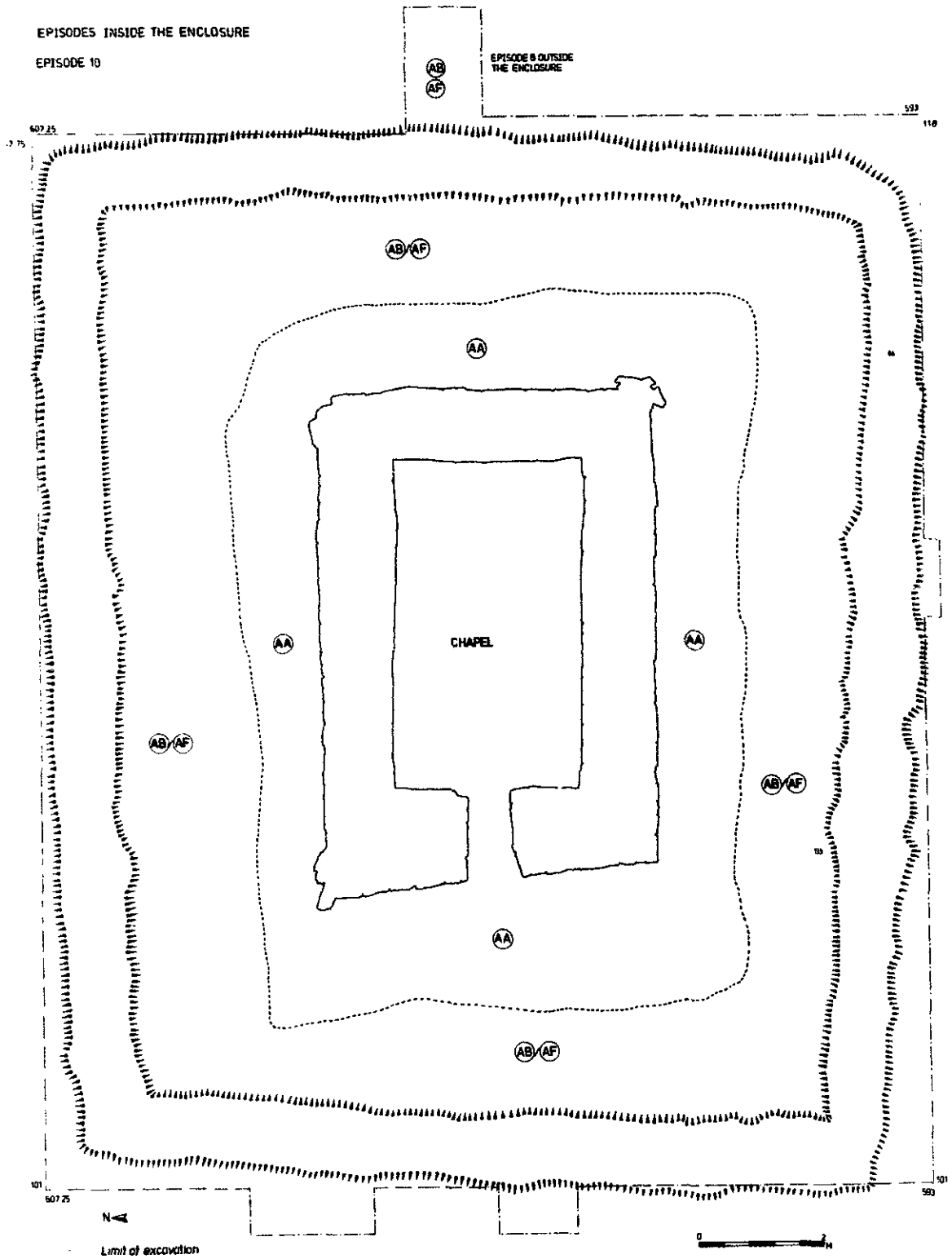
86, Bone fragment: AF

133, Non-artefactual stone: AF

EPIISODES INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE

EPIISODE 10

EPIISODE 8 OUTSIDE  
THE ENCLOSURE

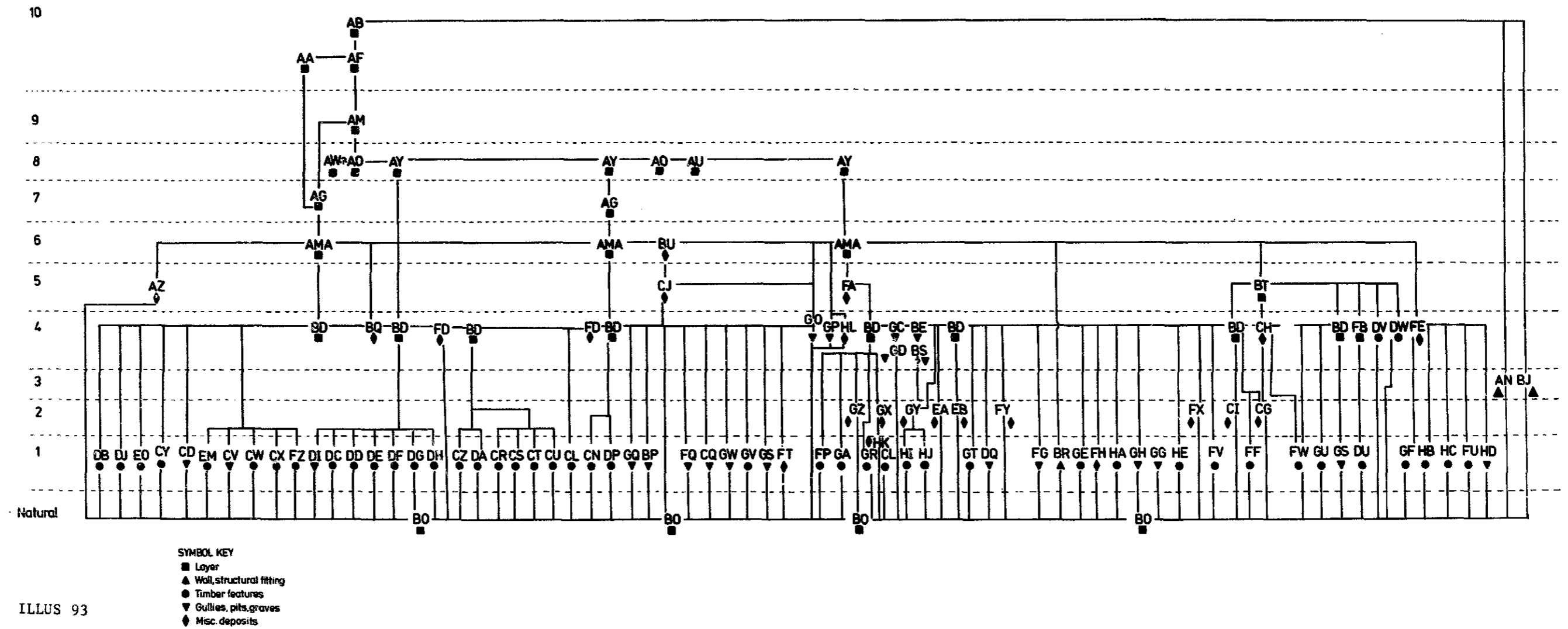


ILLUS 92

3 : F10

ENCLOSURE: STRATIGRAPHIC HIERARCHY

EPISODE



ILLUS 93

Summary of Layers by Episode

Natural Layers

BO

Episode 1

BP, BR, CD, CL, CN, CQ, CR, CS, CT, CU, CV, CW, CX, CY, CZ, DA, DB, DC, DD, DF, DG,  
IH, DI, DJ, DP, DQ, DU, EM, EO, FF, FG, FH, FP, FQ, FT, FU, FV, FW, FZ, GA, GE, GF,  
GG, GH, GQ, GR, GS, GT, GU, GV, GW, HA, HB, HC, HD, HE, HI, HJ, HK

Episode 2

CG, CI, EA, EB, FX, FY, GX, GY, GZ

Episode 3

AN, BJ

Episode 4

BD, BE, BQ, BS, CH, DV, DW, FB, FD, FE, GC, GD, GO, GP, HL

Episode 5

AZ, BT, CJ, FA

Episode 6

AMA, BU

Episode 7

AG

Episode 8

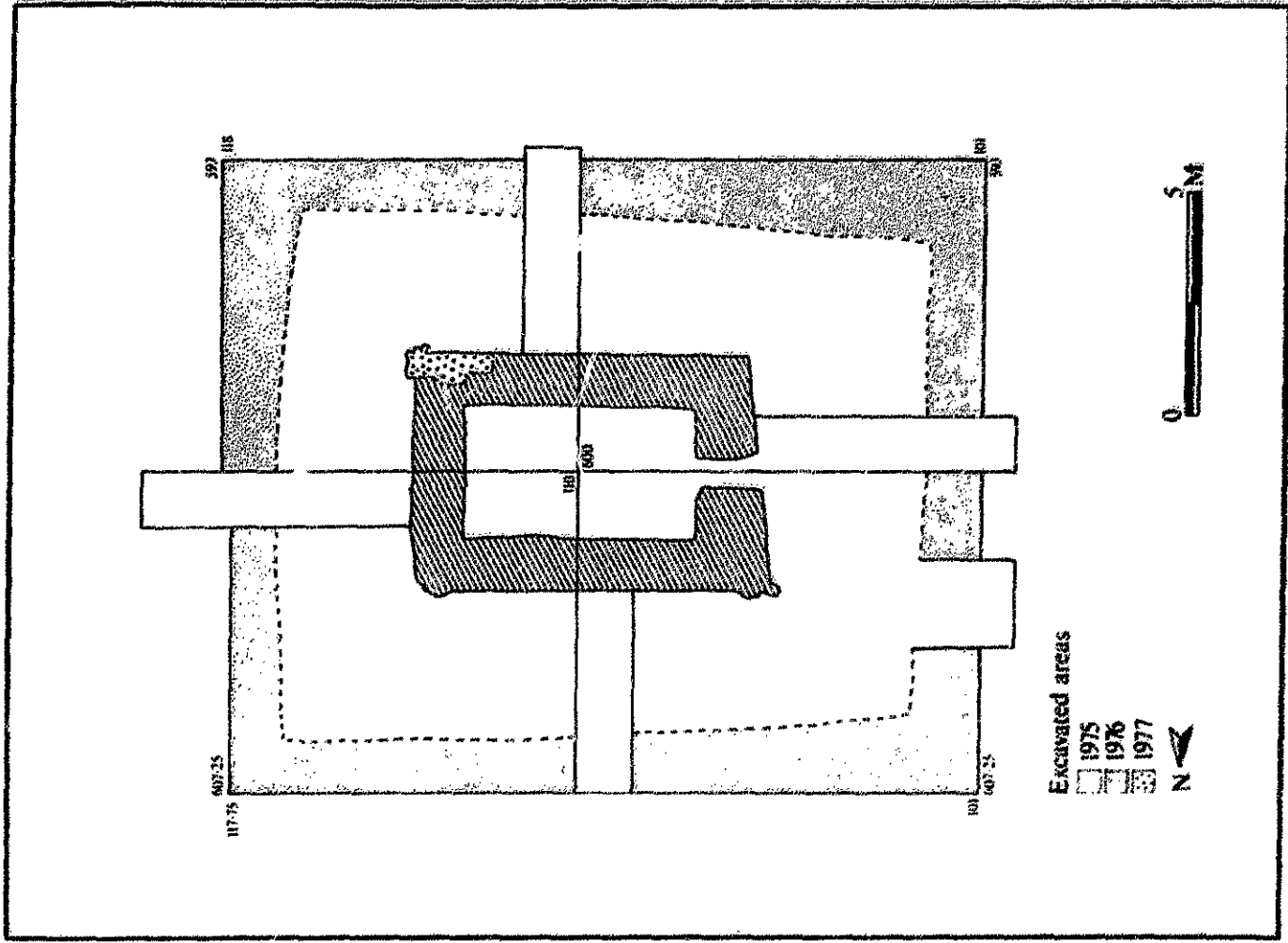
AO, AU, AW, AY

Episode 9

AM

Episode 10

AA, AB, AF



Illus 46 Excavated areas

## OUTSIDE THE ENCLOSURE

As is evident from the plan of areas excavated (Illus <sup>46</sup> ), very little excavation took place outside the enclosure wall. Layers were located in the west, south and north keyholes, but it was only in the east keyhole that a significant sequence was established. This keyhole excavation was designed to cut through the enclosure wall to examine its construction, and relate it to immediately adjacent layers.

### Episode 1

#### Summary

The primary feature located was a small ditch cut into the natural clay in the east keyhole.

#### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 83 )

A slight ditch (BA) was cut into the natural clay (BB). It was between 1.25 and 1.5 m wide and cut only about 10 cms into the clay.

It is not precisely known whether the section of shallow ditch located in the 1.25 m wide east keyhole related to any of the pre-stone chapel features found elsewhere (Enclosure Episode 1). The section of slightly curved gully, CD, was found to extend underneath the north enclosure wall, and this may possibly have connected with the east keyhole ditch, although it is also possible that the latter may have formed part of an entirely unrelated feature to the east.

As is clear from the main east-west section through the site (Illus 95 ), this ditch is in close proximity to the enclosure wall (AN) of Episode 3. There was very little evidence to show whether the ditch had been dug before the wall, or at a stage contemporary with it, but slight traces of soil below the wall appeared to extend into the ditch, suggesting that the ditch was probably earlier. Also, the easterly limit to FC of Episode 2, would support this interpretation.

There were no finds made.

General Finds from Layers and Features

None.

Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

None.



## Episode 2

### Summary

This episode is represented by a spread of burning located on top of natural clay.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 84 )

Below the core of the enclosure wall, BJ, was a patch of burnt material, FC, which overlay the natural clay, BQ. It seems possible that this burnt layer relates to others representing a phase between the timber and stone chapels and enclosure perimeters (see Enclosure Episode 2).

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Bone: FC

Burnt material: FC

Charcoal: FC

### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

None.

### Episode 3

#### Summary

This episode consists of the construction of a stone enclosure wall.

#### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 85 )

In all four keyholes examined, the enclosure was bounded by a stone wall of rough rubble construction (AN), with a core of grey-brown clay and rubble (BJ). It is described more fully under Enclosure Episode 3 (3: E3 ). The Recorded Find 125, a cut bone fragment, was found in the eastern keyhole.

#### General Finds from Layers and Features

See above

#### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

125, cut bone fragment: BJ

## Episode 4

### Summary

This episode consists of material infilling the ditch and deposited on top of the natural clay in the eastern keyhole, and similar deposits in the western and northern keyholes.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 86)

In the eastern keyhole, a layer of light grey/brown clay, BA, comparable to BD within the enclosure, was found to be the filling of the slight ditch cut into the natural clay, BB. Very little difference could be found during excavation between the clays BA and AT above (see Episode 5). Also in the eastern keyhole a deposit of dark brown turfy soil, BC, was found at the eastern end below the clay A' of Episode 5. Five fragments of bone and some stones were found in BA; nothing in BC. An iron object (Recorded Find 47) was recovered from BA.

In the western keyhole, a light brown turfy soil, BH, was found below the clay AX of Episode 5. Stones and possible mortar fragments were found in its layer.

In the northern keyhole, BI, grey clay, was comparable to BD. No finds were made.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: BA, BH

Mortar: BH

Bone: BA

### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

47, iron object: BA

## Episode 5

### Summary

This episode was represented by a series of deposits outside the enclosure wall in each keyhole.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 90 )

A deposit of light brown turfy clay, AT, in the east keyhole was spread up to the enclosure wall, (AN, BJ). This may be related to dark brown rooty soils, AU/AY, within the enclosure area. Also in the east keyhole, at the south-eastern corner, was found a feature of stones, AS, in a slight arc. As it clearly related to the contexts and structures to the east of the enclosure, no further excavation took place of AS. Stones and six animal bones were recovered from AT.

In the northern keyhole, a grey/brown soil, AP, was located, and a light brown clay, AV, in the southern keyhole. Neither layer produced finds. Stones were found in a comparable layer of light grey/brown clayey soil, AX, in the western keyhole.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

Stone: AS, AT, AX

Bone: AT

### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

None.

## Episode 6

### Summary

The development of sub-turf and turf.

### Connected Account of Layers and Features (see Illus 92 )

The formation of sub-turf, AF, indicates desertion of the site, and is succeeded by turf, AB.

### General Finds from Layers and Features

See above II, F9.

### Recorded Finds from Layers and Features

None.

Summary of Layers by Episode

Natural Layers

BB, BC

Episode 1

Ditch / $\overline{BA}$

Episode 2

FC

Episode 3

AN, BJ

Episode 4

BA, BC, BH, BI

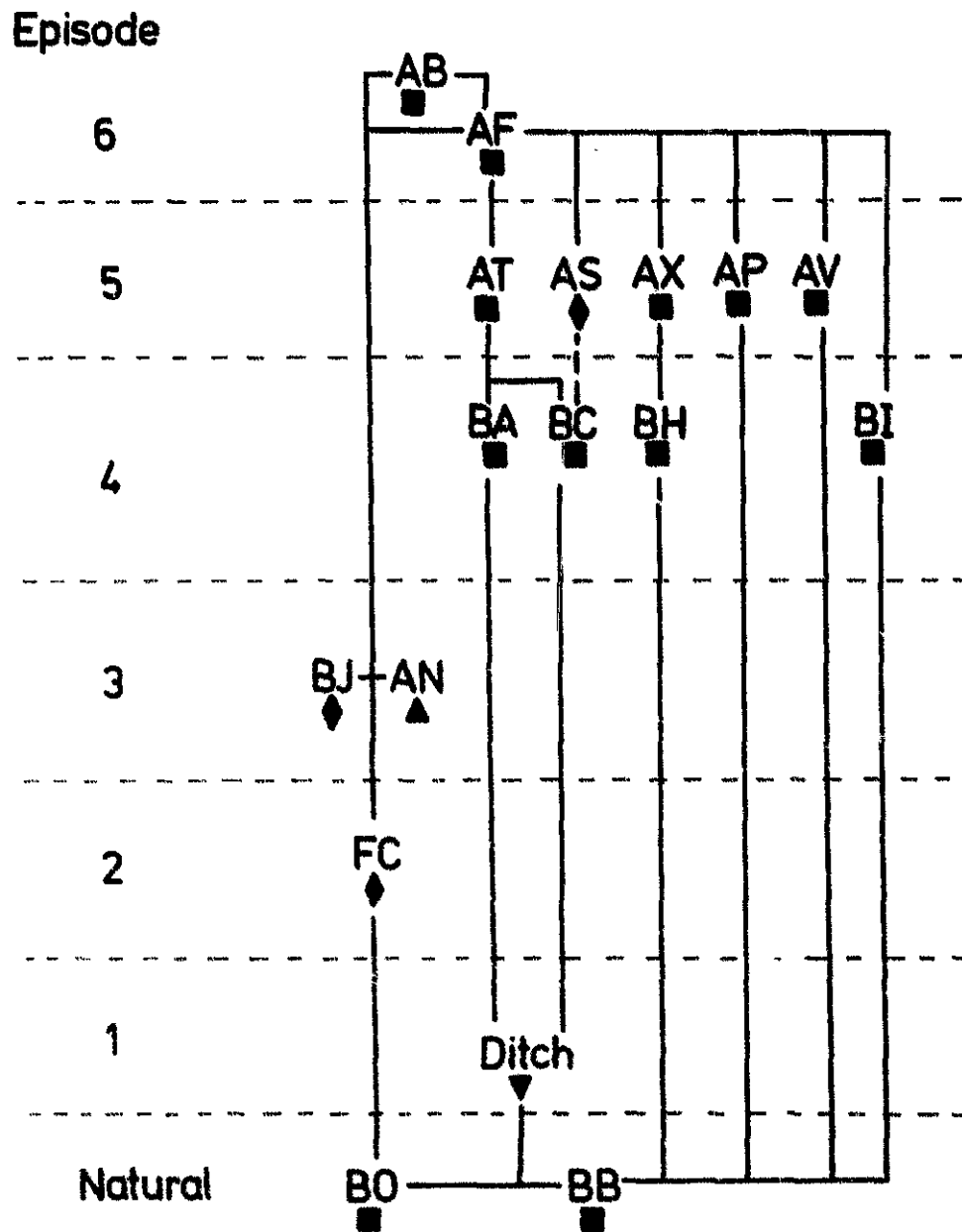
Episode 5

AP, AS, AT, AV, AX

Episode 6

AB, AF

# OUTSIDE THE ENCLOSURE : STRATIGRAPHIC HIERARCHY



## SYMBOL KEY

- Layer
- ▲ Wall, structural fitting
- Timber feature
- ▼ Gullies, pits, graves
- ◆ Misc. deposits

ILLUS 94

## CORRELATION OF EPISODES

The major problem experienced in the excavation of the site was the fact that, as the site is a monument in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland, the walls of the chapel could not be dismantled during excavation. Even one section cut through the walls would have enabled a direct correlation to be made between the layers in the chapel area and those in the enclosure. Because of the prior clearance by the D O E squad of the area immediately around the chapel and in the entrance area, virtually no correlation could be made in that area. Hence the correlation has, perforce, had to be based upon the indirect evidence of the character of the episodes.

The early episodes are, in some ways, the easiest to correlate. Both areas contained an episode of features cut into the natural clay subsoil (a Timber Phase), and a series of intermediate deposits and/or features separating them from an episode of stone construction. The only distinction is that there are two episodes (2 and 3) within the chapel, but only one (Episode 2) outside. Significantly, an episode with a burnt deposit is also seen in the area outside the enclosure (Episode 2).

Following the construction of the stone chapel and enclosure wall, the first episode of usage in both areas is clear: a floor inside the chapel (Episode 5), and a possible gravel path and burials within the enclosure (Episode 4). Similar clay deposits inside and outside the perimeter wall link Episode 4 outside to the sequence. The similarity of a brown clayey deposit with stones in the Chapel (BN of Episode 7) to one in the Enclosure area (BT of Episode 5) seems to link those two episodes. This later part of the Stone Phase also includes the episode inside the chapel when the floor was renewed (Episode 6), and the further structural alteration made when a bench (or benches) was added to the chapel (Episode 7). The final stage of usage of the chapel was clear in Episode 8 inside the chapel, and Episode 6 outside.



Stages in the Decay and Collapse of the site can be charted with clay deposits and stone tumble being found both inside and outside the chapel. Pottery is particularly notable in Episode 9 of the Chapel (one sherd also comes from Episode 7), as is the deposit of copper-alloy coins in Episode 11 and 12 in the Chapel area (one coin was also found in Episode 9 of the Enclosure). The similarity of the clays of Episode 5 Outside the Enclosure to those of Episode 8 in the Enclosure area serves to link those areas.

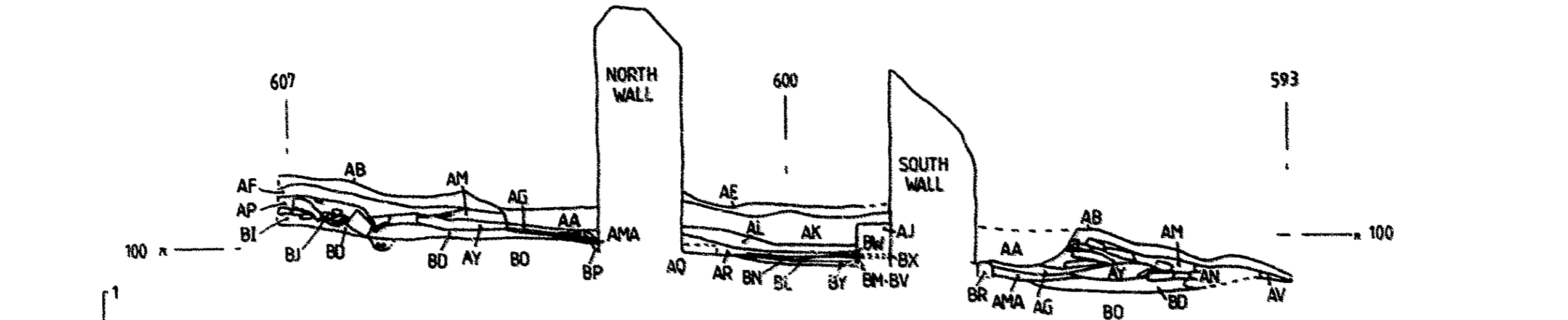
The Final Cover of sub-soil and turf is clear in all areas: Chapel Episode 13, Enclosure Episode 10, Outside the Enclosure Episode 6.

The overall sequence is represented in tabular form on the next page.

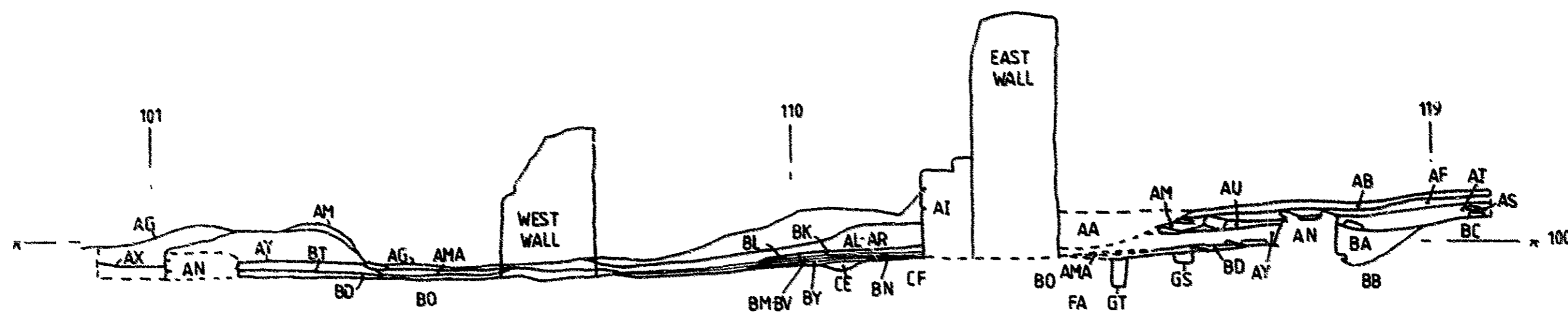
**CORRELATION OF PHASES**

PHASE	CHAPEL EPISODE	ENCLOSURE EPISODE	OUTSIDE ENCLOSURE EPISODE
<b>A Timber phase</b>			
A1: CONSTRUCTION AND	1a	1	1
A2: USE OF TIMBER CHAPEL & ENCLOSING GULLIES, ASSOCIATED POST HOLES AND 2 INFANT GRAVES IN ENCLOSURE, SMALL DITCH TO EAST.	1b	1	1
<b>B Intermediate</b>			
B1: IRREGULAR FEATURES, INCLUDING GULLEY, IN CHAPEL AREA	2	2	2
B2: GENERAL DEPOSITION OF MATERIAL, SOME BURNT, IN ALL AREAS	3	2	2
<b>C Stone phase</b>			
C1: CONSTRUCTION OF STONE CHAPEL & ENCLOSURE WALL	4	3	3
C2: USE (1) PEBBLE FLOOR IN CHAPEL, GRAVEL PATH, CLAY DEPOSITS, & GRAVES IN ENCLOSURE AREA, INFILLING OF DITCH TO EAST	5	4	4
C3: USE (2) FLAGSTONE FLOOR IN CHAPEL, MIXED DEPOSITS AROUND CHAPEL	6	5	4
C4: USE (3) STONE BENCH AGAINST S. WALL OF CHAPEL, GENERAL DEPOSITS ELSEWHERE.	7	5	
C5: USE (4) MORTAR OVER FLOOR & STEPS, & ON WALLS OF CHAPEL, GRAVEL SPREAD & LEVELLING-UP OUTSIDE	8	6	
<b>D Decay and collapse</b>			
D1: CHAPEL & ENCLOSURE OUT OF USE, ALTAR DISTURBED, GENERAL DECAY AND ACCUMULATION	9	7	5
D2: COLLAPSE OF CHAPEL WALLS, & CLAY DEPOSITION OUTSIDE	10	8	5
D3: EXTENSIVE STONE COLLAPSE BOTH IN CHAPEL AREA & ENCLOSURE	11	9	
D4: FURTHER STONE COLLAPSE IN CHAPEL	12	9	5
<b>E Final cover</b>			
E: CHAPEL USED FOR TARGET PRACTICE, DEVELOPMENT OF SUB TURF & TURF AROUND OUTSIDE	13	10	6

# BROUGH OF DEERNESS : Sections



NORTH-SOUTH SECTION



EAST-WEST SECTION